Daily Report

Near East & South Asia

FBIS-NES-93-194
Friday
8 October 1993

Daily Report
Near East & South Asia

FBIS-NES-93-194 8 October 1993

CONTENTS

NOTICE TO READERS: An • indicates material not disseminated in electronic form.

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Arab-Israeli Talks

'Urayqat on Status of Settlements, East Jerusalem *[Cairo Radio]* 1

Inter-Arab Affairs

Arab Lawyers Union Criticizes PLO-Israel Accord *[MENA]* 3

Palestinian Affairs

Christopher Receives PLO's Qaddumi in Washington *[Algiers VOP]* 4
Fatah Representative Hails 'Arafat-Rabin Meeting *[MENA]* 4
Rabin Said To Agree To Free 5,500 Palestinians *[AFP]* 4
PLO's 'Abbas: No Concessions Over Jerusalem *[Cairo Radio]* 4
'Arafat Said Organizing Transitional Teams *[AL-DUSTUR 8 Oct]* 5
PLO Opens 15 Offices in Occupied Territories *[MENA]* 5
PLO's Hirzallah Clarifies Published Remarks *[AL RA'Y 6 Oct]* 5
Commentary Defends PLO Leadership's Authority *[Sanaa VOP]* 5
'Abd-al-Shafi on Accord, Future Talks *[AL-DUSTUR 7 Oct]* 6
Islamic Jihad Leader Calls for New PLO *[Tehran TV]* 10
10 Factions To Form National Front Against Accord *[Paris Radio Monte Carlo]* 10
Agenda of Damascus Meeting Noted *[Paris Radio Monte Carlo]* 10
'Arafat Said Staffing PLO Central Council With Supporters *[Damascus Radio]* 11
PFLP-GC Assails Jibril for Threat to 'Arafat *[Algiers VOP]* 11
Fatah Hawks To Resist if IDF 'Hunting' Continues *[HADASHOT 8 Oct]* 11
U.S. 'Arrogance' in Somalia Seen Undermining UN *[London AL-QUDS AL-'ARABI 6 Oct]* .. 11

ARAB AFRICA

Egypt

'Deteriorating Situation' in Somalia Seen 13
Foreign Ministry Expresses Regret *[MENA]* 13
Musa Offers Views on Events *[MENA]* 13
Paper Warns Against 'New Vietnam' *[MENA]* 13
Clinton Congratulates Mubarak on Reelection *[MENA]* 13
Mubarak Sends Reply Message *[MENA]* 13
UAE President Greets Mubarak on Election Win *[MENA]* 14
Cooperation Protocol Signed With South Africa *[Cairo Radio]* 14
Israel's Call for End of Arab Boycott Rebutted *[AL-AHRAM 2 Oct]* 14
Paper: West's 2-Week Notice to Libya Not Enough *[MENA]* 14
Former Chief of Staff Released From Jail *[MENA]* 15
Islamic Group Head on Human Rights Abuses in Prisons *[AL-SHA'B 28 Sep]* 15
Armored Cars, Missiles Sold to Arab Countries *[MENA]* 16

Libya

Foreign Liaison Official on Lockerbie Issue *[JANA]* 17
Lawyer: Libya To 'Persuade' Suspects To Surrender *[JANA]* 17
JANA Editor Views French Statement on UN Resolution 17

Al-Qadhdhafi Receives Tunisian Interior Minister *[JANA]* 18
Paper Urges Arabs To 'Look East to China' *[JANA]* 18
Meeting in Surt To Prepare for GPC Session *[JANA]* 19

Mauritania

President Receives Guinea-Bissau Envoy, Message *[Nouakchott Radio]* 20
SDAR Emissary Delivers President's Message *[Nouakchott Radio]* 20
Islamic Fundamentalist Stabs Priests at Mass *[Libreville Radio]* 20

Morocco

EC Official on Accords With Rabat, Israel *[MAP]* 21
Air Force Holds Joint Air Exercises With Belgium *[MAP]* 21
Association Publishes Bibliographical Magazine *[MAP]* 21

Sudan

Government Denies Supporting Somalia's Aidid *[AFP]* 22
Ambassador Confirms Plan To 'Save' Country *[SUNA]* 22

ARABIAN PENINSULA

Kuwait

* Assembly Sources on Aid to Palestinians *[London AL-HAYAH 1 Oct]* 23
Interior Minister Views Security, Drugs Concerns *[London AL-HAWADITH 8 Oct]* 23

Yemen

Parliament Urged To 'Shoulder Responsibilities' *[London AL-HAYAH 6 Oct]* 24
Basindwah Comments on Relations With Gulf States *[London AL-HAWADITH 8 Oct]* 25
National Alliance Opposition Warns of Instability *[London AL-HAYAH 2 Oct]* 26

IRAQ

Talks With UN Special Commission, IAEA Conclude 27
List of Nuclear, CW Sources Promised *[AFP]* 27
List Handed Over to UN Team *[AFP]* 27
Talks End; Suppliers Issue 'Settled' *[INA]* 27
Al-Sahhaf Confers With UN's Butrus-Ghali *[Baghdad Radio]* 27
Meets Indonesian, Ugandan Ministers *[INA]* 27
Meets Cape Verde, Indian Counterparts *[INA]* 27
Radio: Cooperation, Talks Put UNSC 'To Test' *[Baghdad Radio]* 28
Explosion, 'Udday Assassination Bid Reported *[SANA]* 28

ISRAEL

Rabin 'Extremely Satisfied' With Cairo Talks *[Jerusalem Radio]* 29
Peres To Head Liaison Committee *[Jerusalem Radio]* 29
Nabulus Prisoner Dies; al-Husayni Addresses Rally *[Jerusalem Radio]* 29
General Almog Named IDF Gaza Troops Commander *[Tel Aviv Radio]* 30
Rafah Border Crossing To Operate 24 Hours a Day *[Jerusalem Radio]* 30
Returned Deportees Decry Suppression of Rights *[Jerusalem Radio]* 30

LEBANON

Junblatt Says U.S. Stance on Lebanon Unchanged *[VOM]* 31
Hizballah Rejects Jazzin Withdrawal Offer *[Voice of the Oppressed]* 31
Al-Hirawi Praises Army's Unity, Discipline *[VOM]* 31
Lebanese Army Buildup in Western al-Biqa' Reported *[Voice of the South]* 31

SYRIA

Al-Shar' Meeting With Clinton Reported *[Damascus Radio]* 32
Rabin Call for 'Secret Negotiations' Rejected *[Damascus Radio]* 32

SOUTH ASIA

Afghanistan

• Mojahedin Fight To Control Kabul-Herat Road *[London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT 29 Sep]* 33
'At Least 37' Civilians Caught in Artillery Crossfire *[AFP]* 33
Supreme Court on Judicial Appointments, Procedures *[Kabul Radio]* 33
Rabbani Meets With Pakistani Ambassador *[Kabul Radio]* 34

Iran

Velayati Meets Counterparts at UN Sidelines *[IRNA]* 35
U.S. Seen Spreading Israeli Sphere of Influence *[Tehran Radio]* 35
• Kho'iniha Refuses To Speak in Court *[London KEYHAN 16 Sep]* 36
• KEYHAN Editor in Chief Taken to Court *[SALAM 2 Sep]* 37
• Rafsanjani Cabinet Members' Biographies Given *[London KEYHAN 26 Aug]* 37
• Seventh Refinery Becomes Operational *[London KEYHAN 16 Sep]* 39
• 70 Percent of Population Said Below Poverty Line *[London KEYHAN 16 Sep]* 40
• Threat to Country's Agricultural Future Seen *[SALAM 2 Sep]* 41
• Motives for Gilan Prosecutor's Suicide Reported *[London KEYHAN 26 Aug]* 41
• Involvement in Narcotics Trade Alleged *[London KEYHAN 19 Aug]* 42

Nepal & Bhutan

Nepal, Bhutan Reach Agreement on Refugee Issue *[AFP]* 43

Pakistan

Prominent Politicians Hail 'Free, Fair' Elections *[Islamabad Radio]* 44
Bhutto: PPP To Form Government at Federal Level *[Islamabad Radio]* 44
Outlines Program for 'Reconstruction' *[Islamabad Radio]* 44

Arab-Israeli Talks

'Urayqat on Status of Settlements, East Jerusalem

NC0810104293 Cairo Voice of the Arabs in Arabic 0610 GMT 8 Oct 93

[Telephone interview with Dr. Sa'ib 'Urayqat, deputy head of the Palestinian delegation to the Washington peace talks, in Jerusalem, by Fawzi al-Jundi, in Cairo, within the "Dialogue From Afar" program; date not given—recorded]

[Text] [Al-Jundi] Good morning, Dr. Sa'ib, and welcome to the Voice of the Arabs.

['Urayqat] Good morning.

[Al-Jundi] Four Palestinian-Israeli committees have been formed to put the Palestinian-Israeli Declaration of Principles into effect. Do you believe that the talks scheduled to begin on 13 October between the Palestinians and the Israelis will be similar to the Washington talks? Or will they be of special significance?

['Urayqat] I believe that some committees need to be established under the agreement. There is the Palestinian-Israeli Liaison Committee, which will be a committee of reference; in case of differences among the negotiating teams, they will refer back to the Liaison Committee. If it fails to resolve the differences, there is an arbitration committee that is scheduled to be formed. So, the Liaison Committee is a supervisory committee on a very high political and technical level. Another Palestinian committee will discuss withdrawal from the Jericho area and the Gaza Strip. This committee will work for 60 days only; it must conclude its work by 13 December 1993, as the agreement stipulates, so that the withdrawal can be completed not later than 13 April 1994. The interim agreement is fully conceptualized, that is, the transfer of power, elections, arbitration, the 1967 refugees, security, economy, transport, roads, etc. All these issues come under the jurisdiction of the Palestinian team to be formed to negotiate in Washington. The Washington talks, I believe, will follow a timetable set by the U.S. and Russian cosponsors with the agreement of the other Arab parties taking part in the peace process, namely Syria, Jordan, and Lebanon. In Washinton, the negotiations will be held at the time and place agreed upon by the Arab parties.

[Al-Jundi] So, could we say that the Palestinian side will disengage itself from the talks with the other Arab parties?

['Urayqat] No, absolutely not. As I have told you, every issue relating to the interim agreement will be negotiated in Washington at the same time and place as the talks in which the other Arab delegations are participating, that is, at the U.S. State Department in the same timeframe within which the other delegations are negotiating. Now, there are steps that need to be taken on the ground. As you know, we and all the Arab states participating in the peace process have stressed that the Palestinian side's concluding an agreement on the transitional period does not mean disengagement from the other parties, a unilateral, or a separate deal. The special nature of the Palestinian track, which has spoken of two stages since Madrid—a transitional and a final period—makes this track unique. Statements have been made by the ministerial Arab coordination meetings emphasizing this special nature. As for the negotiating committee on Gaza and Jericho, it must study and complete the measures pertaining to Israel's withdrawal from Gaza and Jericho not more than 60 days after it meets.

[Al-Jundi] Dr. 'Urayqat, in light of the recent statements by Rabin and 'Arafat in Cairo, do you think the Palestinian-Israeli Declaration of Principles will be fully translated into reality or are there obstacles that could obstruct its implementation?

['Urayqat] The agreement consists of 63 articles, all of which lack implementation mechanisms in that each article will be negotiated. In my opinion, the negotiations will be difficult, complicated, long, and arduous. So, the Declaration of Principles must be viewed as an agenda that specifies the principles, basis, and articles that must be negotiated. Take, for example, the Jericho zone and the relationship between the Palestinian people and the Israeli security forces in the areas in which the Israeli Defense Forces will be redeployed. There is also the issue of Israeli settlements, the participation of Jerusalem's residents in elections, and the jurisdiction and responsibilities in Jerusalem. There is a wide gap between the Palestinian and Israeli delegations on numerous issues.

[Al-Jundi] Since you referred to Israeli settlements, permit me to ask: Do you think their status will remain normal inside the Palestinian autonomous region or will a demand be made to move these settlements inside Israel?

['Urayqat] The status of the settlements is basically abnormal. Settlements constitute a big obstacle to peace and to implementing the articles of the Declaration of Principles. These issues will constitute one of the most important obstacles facing the negotiations and the agreement's implementation. I think that in the long term, this abnormal existence of the settlements will disappear. But it is hard to imagine the existence of two authorities at the same time. It is hard to imagine the existence of two systems for education, health, and security. These issues are totally impractical and will complicate things. Some say discussion of the issue will be postponed. I don't think you can postpone discussing it, as it concerns daily life and the process. This will be one of the intricate points that could obstruct the peace process.

[Al-Jundi] Do you think Palestinian president Yasir 'Arafat's appointing Faysal al-Husayni to discuss the future of Jerusalem with the Israeli Government is an

attempt to answer those who claimed the agreement disregards the future of Jerusalem?

['Urayqat] No. Faysal al-Husayni was appointed to the Jerusalem portfolio irrespective of whether there is an agreement or not. For us, Arab Jerusalem is an indivisible part of the occupied Palestinian territory. As you may have noticed, the interim agreement contains an article on the participation of Jerusalem's residents in the elections through nomination and voting. Education, health, and other fields in Jerusalem are in the hands of the Palestinians. With or without an agreement, we must do our utmost to create facts on the ground on a daily basis and do so fast to safeguard Jerusalem's holy places and Arab character. Many committees have been working for years. These include the Higher Jerusalem Committee established by al-Husayni. There are other committees dealing with health, our institutions, and our basic centers. The main centers of our institutions dealing with our unions and our educational, health, cultural, and social institutions all exist in Jerusalem. So, al-Husayni has been officially appointed to the post to ensure that the facts on the ground keep getting created to confirm that Jerusalem is an indivisible part of the occupied Palestinian territory. We, of course, cannot control what Rabin says about Jerusalem. But, whoever comes to east Jerusalem and compares it with west Jerusalem will realize that while there are no walls between them, they are two worlds apart. Arab Jerusalem is Arab, Islamic, and Christian, and we will do our best to perpetuate this fact.

Inter-Arab Affairs

Arab Lawyers Union Criticizes PLO-Israel Accord

NC0710212893 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1715 GMT 7 Oct 93

[Text] Cairo, 7 Oct (MENA)—The General Secretariat of the Arab Lawyers Union has criticized the Palestinian-Israeli agreement because it does not meet the internationally-recognized legitimate rights of the Palestinian people.

A statement issued today says the agreement has many negative points conflicting with Palestinian rights. It notes that the recognition is neither complete, balanced, nor fair. It explains that while the PLO recognized Israel, the latter did not recognize the Palestinian people's right to an independent state, nor did it acknowledge any other legitimate Palestinian right.

The statements says any Middle East settlement must establish a comprehensive peace; bolster stability, development, coexistence, and understanding among the peoples of the region; respect human rights; and abide by a full implementation of all UN and Security Council resolutions concerning Palestinian rights and a complete and unconditional withdrawal from the occupied Palestinian territories, the Syrian Golan Heights, and southern Lebanon.

Palestinian Affairs

Christopher Receives PLO's Qaddumi in Washington

LD0810100993 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 7 Oct 93

[Text] U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher received Brother Abu-Lutf [Faruq Qaddumi], head of the PLO Political Department in Washington yesterday for a half-hour meeting, which the U.S. State Department described as positive. State Department spokesman McCurry said that Christopher found Qaddumi's support for the Palestinian-Israeli declaration of principles, and the stress he laid on the importance of its implementation to be encouraging.

Brother Abu-Lutf said he hoped that Israel would withdraw quickly from the occupied West Bank, release all Palestinian prisoners, and allow Palestinians freedom of movement in Jerusalem and between Israel and the occupied territories.

Before meeting Christopher, Brother Abu-Lutf and the members of his delegation, Brothers Nasir al-Qudwah, Zuhdi al-Tarazi and Sa'id Kamal, held talks with officials of the U.S. State Department in charge of the affairs of Middle East peace negotiations.

Fatah Representative Hails 'Arafat-Rabin Meeting

NC0710142293 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1152 GMT 7 Oct 93

[Text] Cairo, 7 Oct (MENA)—Fatah representative in Cairo Zuhdi al-Qidrah has praised the efforts of Egypt and President Mubarak in sponsoring the summit talks between Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat and Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin in Cairo yesterday, Wednesday.

In a statement to MENA, al-Qidrah said that Egypt's efforts created a positive atmosphere for the talks, which will lead to a speedy implementation of the Palestinian-Israeli Declaration of Principles and to a solution of the Palestinian issue.

He added that the four committees agreed upon at the talks will give impetus to the implementation of the Palestinian-Israeli accord because these committees will make arrangements and devise procedures for the transitional stage.

He noted the significance of forming the Jerusalem committee, which is to discuss the future of the city along with the liaison and Gaza-Jericho accord committees.

He pointed out that the meeting of the joint Palestinian-Israeli General Committee in Washington simultaneously with other Arab- Israeli tracks affirms the unity of the Arab position, which the Palestinian leadership is eager to promote to benefit the Palestinian cause and Arab issues.

Al-Qidrah expressed his hope that Israel will prove its good intentions practically through the work of the established four committees. He emphasized that this will advance the cause of peace. He said that the Palestinian side is willing and ready to assume all its responsibilities stipulated by the Palestinian- Israeli Declaration of Principles.

Rabin Said To Agree To Free 5,500 Palestinians

NC0810105593 Paris AFP in English 1020 GMT 8 Oct 93

[Text] Tunis, Oct 8 (AFP)—PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat and Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin have agreed that 5,500 Palestinian prisoners held by Israel will be released in the coming days, an informed Palestinian source said Friday.

The goodwill gesture would coincide with the Palestinian autonomy plan for the Gaza Strip and Jericho going into effect on Wednesday.

Palestinians and Israeli pacifists staged demonstrations on Thursday calling for the release of some 12,500 Palestinians held in Israeli jails.

The prisoner release would also coincide with a meeting of the PLO's central council which begins on Sunday.

Shaykh 'Ahmad Yasin, spiritual leader of the Islamic Resistance Movement HAMAS, could be one of those freed, the source said.

Since the peace deal was signed last month 'Arafat has called several times for the release of Yasin, who is serving a life sentence.

'Arafat raised the prisoner issue when he met Rabin in Cairo on Wednesday.

PLO's 'Abbas: No Concessions Over Jerusalem

NC0710204193 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1905 GMT 7 Oct 93

[Interview with PLO Executive Committee Member Mahmud 'Abbas by Muhammad Abu-al-'Ula in Tunis, carried in "The Talking Newspaper" program; date not given—recorded]

[Excerpt] [Abu-al-'Ula] Good evening, sir.

['Abbas] Good evening to you.

[Abu-al-'Ula] You have reached an agreement with Israel on mutual recognition and a declaration of principles. How do you perceive future moves?

['Abbas] After the lengthy dialogue and negotiations between Palestinian and Israeli representatives—two years in Washington and 9 months in Oslo—we agreed on mutual PLO-Israeli recognition and on a declaration of principles, as you said. The agreement needs to be implemented. The current stage is the stage of implementation. So, we have moved from the stage of negotiations to a new,

important, and perhaps more serious stage. We have moved from minor struggle to major struggle.

During the negotiations, the Israelis refused to determine the topics of the final status talks. They said that each party can propose whatever it wishes. By that, they were trying to evade a mention of Jerusalem, Israeli settlements, and refugees. They wanted to close the files on these issues. But we insisted on them and included them on the agenda for future discussions. I would like to say here that we will not concede these issues; that is, Jerusalem is an occupied territory. We set Security Council Resolution 242 as the term of reference for the entire agreement. The resolution says in its preamble that the occupation of others' territories by force is inadmissible. Jerusalem is one of the regions occupied by force in 1967. [passage omitted]

'Arafat Said Organizing Transitional Teams

JN0810085093 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 8 Oct 93 pp 1, 10

[Samir Sa'd-al-Din report from Tunis]

[Excerpt] Informed Palestinian sources have revealed that President Yasir 'Arafat has begun organizing the special teams that will accompany him to Gaza and Jericho during the transitional period. The sources said these teams were being set up along the same lines as those used by countries. These agencies are:

—The presidential office, which will include a number of advisers in various fields, the secretariat, and the office of private affairs.

—The information office, which will be reorganized and expanded.

—The special security organ, which will be commanded by 'Abd-al- Mun'im Sardanah.

—The presidential guard and associated protocol agencies.

In addition to the current staff, these teams will include cadres and individuals from the occupied territories. Principal employees of these agencies will undergo training in European and Arab states. [passage omitted]

PLO Opens 15 Offices in Occupied Territories

NC0710155093 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1428 GMT 7 Oct 93

[Text] Cairo, 7 Oct (MENA)—The United Nations Relief and Works Agency, UNRWA, has reported that the PLO has opened 15 offices in the occupied territories.

A circular issued by the UNRWA office in Cairo said that Palestinian organizations that formerly operated clandestinely in the occupied territories are now operating publicly following the signing of the Palestinian-Israeli declaration of principles.

The circular said that the PLO is expected to open several other offices in the West Bank and Gaza.

The UNRWA announced that the PLO has published numerous advertisements urging Palestinian young men to volunteer for the security force that will be established to maintain order in the Palestinian territories and prepare for the arrival of the PLO leaders in Gaza and Jericho in line with the Palestinian-Israeli agreement.

PLO's Hirzallah Clarifies Published Remarks

JN0610133993

[Editorial Report] Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic on 6 October publishes on page 25 a clarification by Dr. Jawad Naji Hirzallah, chief of the PLO's Economic and Planning Department, in which he denies that he met with French diplomats in Amman or said France had promised to finance a highway between Jericho and Gaza. According to the clarification, Hirzallah says that he told AL-RA'Y only that the French Government has expressed its readiness to construct a road linking Jericho with Gaza.

Commentary Defends PLO Leadership's Authority

JN0710211793 Sanaa Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1800 GMT 6 Oct 93

["Opening Talk" by Yahya Rabah: "The Palestinian People's Image in the Times of Existence"]

[Text] The agreement signed by the PLO with Israel is still drawing reactions on the ground, with many different opinions that show its positive and negative aspects. This is, of course, expected because no agreement is completely sacred, which we should receive with submission, or evil, which we should receive with fear, rejection, and attempts to escape.

The agreement, which was signed and became a fact, is the outcome of the balance of power on one hand and the outcome of a Palestinian view to move a step ahead on the path of the Palestinian rights on the other. Therefore, the Palestinian-Palestinian, Arab- Palestinian, and Islamic-Palestinian dialogue should focus on this concept in order to support its positive aspects, entrench its future views, and reduce its negative aspects and shortcomings.

The
observers of political stands, since the signing the agreement, and the observers of political and theoretical analyses will certainly feel glad, because this agreement has opened the eyes and mind of many people to images of new awareness, brave visions, and sound opinions on the Palestinian, Arab, and Islamic levels as well as on the

level of world awareness regarding the chapters of the Palestine question. There are fears on one side and there are hopes on the other. The most important thing, however, is that the main motive of the awareness regarding this agreement is serious and free from old complexes and that these hopes and fears stem from reality.

Regrettably, O brothers, there are still some confused views, revengeful disputes, and some illegitimate fears that make their owners encroach on what is sacred—that is, the Palestinian people's right to sovereignty and to adopt the decisions that serve their political and national identity as well as their higher interests. This is a kind of excessiveness and tampering at the same time. The Palestinian people are not second-class citizens among their Arab and Islamic nation. Even if some parties laid down their policies in the past on this basis, that stage has been foiled by our people through their glorious revolution and blessed intifadah—through their revolution, great sacrifices, and full awareness of themselves and of the world around them.

The struggling Palestinian people stand on an equal footing amid their Arab and Islamic nation. Even if we [words indistinct], we have our rights like our brothers, because among brothers there are no masters or slaves. The Palestinian people have their own leadership, the PLO, and have their own legitimate framework where they seek arbitration. These official legitimate frameworks have opposition just like anybody else and these official legitimate frameworks have shortcomings just like anybody else. Perfection is for God alone.

I want to recall here that the PLO has never described the Palestinian opposition as some describe the opposition in their countries. The Palestinian leadership never faced the Palestinian opposition with the methods used by some parties. We say that the national Palestinian opposition is from us and for us, our arena can absorb all Palestinian trends, and our democracy is wide. Our leadership never adopted a decision with 99.99 percent of the votes. We consider this an offense to our people, which we never accept.

Nobody has the right to monopolize the truth and deprive the Palestinian people of it. Therefore, when we hear somebody in our Arab and Islamic regimes saying that the PLO has no right to do this or that, it greatly insults the Palestinian people and opens anew the store of great pains. The PLO is the leader of our people [words indistinct], our militant people, not by indulgences issued by others. The PLO deals with every Arab and Islamic people on the basis that the official legitimate leadership of those people have the right to make whatever decisions they want. Are the Palestinian people (?different), or are they a [word indistinct] herd attacked by wolves from everywhere?

The writs of (?prohibition) and condemnation issued by some parties in the name of national justice and in the name of Islamic justice draw our people's denunciation and astonishment at the same time. Our people, represented by their leadership, gave more than anybody else to their Arab and Islamic nation. This is an eternal truth that cannot be denied. If some parties have other interpretations and other methods for the mechanism of political work, these have their own practical frameworks on which reconciliation can be achieved. However, they have no right to violate our red lines. At the top of these, nobody can claim that the Palestinian people have no right to make decisions related to their fate. Our Palestinian people no longer do not have the right to make the decisions related to their fate; our people's role is no longer played by proxy; and our people no longer accept [words indistinct]. Our people have proved through their heroism and sacrifices that they have entered the time of existence.

'Abd-al-Shafi on Accord, Future Talks

JN0710121893 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 7 Oct 93 p 13

[Interview with Dr. Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi, head of the Palestinian negotiating delegation, by correspondent Aman al-Sa'ih in Amman—date not given]

[Text] [Al-Sa'ih] What has happened since the Madrid [conference], and what is taking place now?

['Abd-al-Shafi] I only learned about the agreement while I was on my way to attend the 11th round in Washington. At that time, the agreement was already signed, and we were only notified of it as it had not been discussed with us previously. In my opinion, this agreement is unsatisfactory, and I have basic objections to it. This is because it does not nullify Israel's allegations that it is not an occupying force. Moreover, there was nothing said about the building of settlements, and this issue will be discussed in the final phase.

This, however, is insufficient, particularly with regard to Jerusalem where Israel is actively building settlements. This attitude toward the agreement implicitly accepts the existence of two independent entities in the occupied territories: An Israeli entity and a Palestinian entity. In my viewpoint, this would place intense barriers on the path of an independent [Palestinian] state.

At the same time, I would say that this agreement is only a declaration of principles and not a peace agreement. This means that there is still an opportunity to hold responsible negotiations in the next phase in order to overcome the negative aspects of the agreement and adhere to our right to an independent state in the long run. This will be an extremely difficult process, and even more difficult than the previous negotiations. I believe that this agreement gave Israel more reasons to continue its intransigence and maintain its rejection of the Palestinian people's natural rights. This is the current situation. Moreover, there are ongoing consultations to form committees necessary for receiving the authority in Gaza and Jericho first. Other committees will handle the elections which will be held nine months from the date

the agreement was signed. The preparation for such elections needs discussing their mechanism and the number of members in the elected council. This issue also needs a special committee to discuss it with the Israelis. This council will define the authority to which the powers of the transitional government will be transferred in the coming transitional period. This is taking place now in the PLO circles.

[Al-Sa'ih] There are committees which will negotiate with the Israelis in the coming phase. What about Jerusalem and the settlements that will be built?

['Abd-al-Shafi] I repeat: It is a declaration of principles and not a peace agreement. There is still an opportunity to take a solid position in order to stop the building of settlements now. It is inconceivable to talk about negotiations on the final status of the occupied territories at a time when Israel continues to change the realities on the ground by building settlements, particularly in Jerusalem. There is also talk about discussing the Jerusalem issue in the final phase of negotiations at a time when Israel is preoccupied with building settlements throughout Jerusalem. Israel is also threatening to evacuate houses in some Jerusalem suburbs from their Arab residents. There is thus an obvious contradiction between the real situation and the agreement, and this is one of the weak points in this agreement.

We should under no circumstances sacrifice our inalienable and basic rights. We have unequivocally proved our desire to achieve peace, but we should not accept an imposed peace. We should also not accept the leadership's surrender to pressures by other parties. I am confident that the people refuse to relinquish their rights. I hope that the negotiating committees will take responsible positions in the negotiations in order to translate this agreement into practical measures as part of the peace process.

[Al-Sa'ih] What about the rumors that there are secret supplements to this agreement?

['Abd-al-Shafi] I do not know of any secret annexes to this agreement. There are only four annexes concerning security, elections, and economic issues. I do not know anything about the secret annexes, and I feel they do not exist. However, there is talk about messages exchanged among the four persons involved in the secret talks with the Israeli Government on the issue of Jerusalem. However, I do not specifically know anything about these messages.

[Al-Sa'ih] There is apprehension and concern among the Palestinians about the Palestinian police force. What about this issue?

['Abd-al-Shafi] The Palestinian authority which will receive the administration from the Israeli side will supposedly be responsible for law and order in Gaza and Jericho first, and later in other occupied territories, as is the case in all communities. However, the sensitivity of the situation will first arise from the presence of Israeli settlements, and also from Israel's insistence on chasing the wanted Palestinians. I think that the Israeli army will remain in the occupied territories and will have the right to operate on the roads. This will create a very sensitive situation because the Palestinian masses will continue to reject occupation in any form whatsoever. This means that acts of resistance similar to the intifadah may arise.

The situation might even be more sensitive depending on the way the Palestinian police force deals with this situation. It is inconceivable that this police force could be involved in oppressing the Palestinians who carry out resistance operations. Israel would protest against this, and would pressure the Palestinian police force to oppress these Palestinians; hence the sensitivity, especially since Israel would not hesitate to carry out fierce oppressive operations against Palestinians, as is the case now.

Therefore, the Palestinian police force will be in a sensitive position. I hope it will abide by the principles of human rights and not violate these rights. Otherwise, the Palestinian situation may become explosive. Such issues were discussed with the leadership in Tunis. These precautions must be taken into account by the committee charged with the formation of the police force. It must decide how that force will be trained and who will indoctrinate and teach it about the principles of human rights. Additionally, we discussed the character and background of individuals applying to join the police force and the importance of deciding who to take in. The door is not open to anyone. There is a firm position, and in no circumstance should the authority suppress the people who carry out acts on the intifadah level. It should only suppress criminals who violate human rights. The police force must act in a responsible way and with great restraint. All these issues must be addressed. Who will become a policeman? Any one with a criminal record will not be allowed to join the police force. Individuals must not be chosen on the basis of party affiliation because we do not want to create various militias inside the Palestinian police force.

[Al-Sa'ih] How do you view the recent Israeli measures against citizens in the West Bank and Gaza?

['Abd-al-Shafi] What has happened is a source of concern for me, and is something that has to be deplored and condemned. I feel these acts do not demonstrate Israel's good intentions toward the peace process. The Palestinian leadership has protested these Israeli actions and practices.

[Al-Sa'ih] What about the rumors on a transitional Palestinian government?

['Abd-al-Shafi] The agreement concerns a transitional period which will last for five years during which the PLO will remain the leadership of the Palestinian people both inside and outside. I do not see any problem or contradiction here. The situation inside will be controlled by an elected Palestinian authority and this authority will be answerable to the masses, not the PLO.

This does not mean a contradiction between the PLO and that authority. They will both constitute the Palestinian situation in general with all its details.

[Al-Sa'ih] How will the next elections be held?

['Abd-al-Shafi] In our view, and we discussed this in Madrid, we want the elected council to have 120 members. We also want the council to have legislative powers and set up an executive council to supervise various departments. This is the required constitutional form. Israel still insists that the council must have a limited number of members because from the Israeli viewpoint, the council has to be an administrative council only. Israel also objects to the council having any legislative powers. But, according to the agreement, Israel does not object to the council having legislative powers over the departments that will be transferred to the Palestinians (such as health, education, agriculture, and tourism); that is all the domestic administration departments which will be transferred during the self-rule phase. The number which Israel will accept is subject to negotiations between the specialized committee and Israel.

The form of this specialized committee has not yet been determined. I do not think things are ready to discuss this issue in the PLO Central Council, but I believe the Central Council will be eager to form it from members inside and outside the occupied territories and without imposing any restrictions on it.

There will also be other committees, including the liaison committee, the national authority committee, the security committee, the economy committee, and the elections committee. Several committees must be decided very soon, before 13 October, such as the liaison committee and the national authority committee which will supervise the transfer of powers from Israel to the authority in charge of Gaza and Jericho. Consultations are currently under way between the Palestinian leadership, the negotiating team—in an advisory capacity only, and the Executive Committee to choose the persons who will run the self-rule government during the next phase.

There is a committee charged with the issue of the repatriation of refugees. This committee comprises Palestinians, Jordanians, Egyptians, and Israelis. As for setting dates to discuss matters, this will be decided within the framework of the liaison committee. I have no specific information on this subject.

[Al-Sa'ih] There are conflicting reports on your stand toward the Palestinian-Israeli agreement. Could you specifically define your position?

['Abd-al-Shafi] I am not actually satisfied with this agreement. I oppose it. I expressed my opinion when I spoke about its negative aspects. Nevertheless, the agreement is now a fact. I would like to repeat that we badly need to reorganize the Palestinian home, that is, to attain a unified Palestinian position. This requires that democracy be activated in the PLO institutions and the principle of collective leadership be promoted. This will enable us to deal with all our political and economic affairs and all that is related to the Palestinian future successfully and with greater responsibility, contrary to the current state of unilateral decision-making.

The present situation is incapable of utilizing the Palestinian people's energies and placing them in the service of our cause. This is a large point of weakness in our national struggle in spite of our urgent need to utilize the dissipated Palestinian energies in the service of the cause. This can be achieved only by applying the democratic principles that will bring about a collective leadership capable of planning and organizing.

I have been calling for this since the start of the Madrid negotiations and have recently emphasized it following the continuation of the negotiations deadlock. The need to realize and apply the principle of collective leadership is now greater, especially since we are facing an agreement of principles that includes many negative aspects and since we are still fragmented. This is the impasse we are facing.

[Al-Sa'ih] You are in Amman for talks with the opposition. What will you present in your meetings?

['Abd-al-Shafi] Here lies the importance of reorganizing the Palestinian home. We have a de facto agreement before us and what is now required is a way for the leadership and the opposition to cooperate so that the latter will participate in the decisionmaking and play a role in all that is happening. This is the responsibility of the leadership. The opposition should not adopt hardline positions but respond to any serious attempt by the leadership to ensure participation in decision-making.

I demand that the opposition be invited to take part in the forthcoming process and I appeal to the opposition to respond favorably to any invitation addressed to it. This will lead to a detailed discussion of the present situation in the service of the Palestinian people's interests, which are greatly harmed by the continuation of division and strife. This situation should not continue.

During the next few days I will begin meetings in Amman with PLO- affiliated Palestinian opposition groups as well as Hamas. I, however, was not asked by the Palestinian leadership to undertake this move. I will discuss with them the whole issue. We are in a situation that requires a unified Palestinian position. In order to achieve this, direct contacts should be established between the two parties. Such meetings should be held out of concern for national unity.

[Al-Sa'ih] What do you think of what was published about Hamas' intention to participate in the self-rule elections?

['Abd-al-Shafi] I view this as a positive development indicating responsible thinking by the Hamas leadership. Participation in elections is open to all factions; it is the right of everyone to participate.

[Al-Sa'ih] What about distributing posts on partisan bases?

['Abd-al-Shafi] I have no direct role in the distribution of posts. However, I would like to say that all partisan and personal considerations, as well as favoritism, should be avoided. Objectivity is required because this is a great responsibility, which will greatly determine the chances of success or failure.

[Al-Sa'ih] Billions [currency not specified] have begun to pour into the West Bank and Gaza Strip. Does this not evoke some concerns and reservations?

['Abd-al-Shafi] First, I do not think that the leadership is yielding to financial blackmail. It would be a disaster if the leadership did, although we need financial aid and huge funds to improve the bad situation in various fields in the occupied territories. I would say that the cause of peace stresses the support for the people, particularly in the economic field. However, this aid should not be conditional and should not be linked to pressures on the Palestinians. Moreover, we should not underestimate our rights under financial pressures. We want a just peace, and not capitulation. Thus, there should be no contradiction between our need for funds and the achievement of a just peace.

[Al-Sa'ih] What about the resignations in the negotiating delegation and the fabricated financial crisis?

['Abd-al-Shafi] I prefer not to comment on this issue. I am away from the financial crisis, so I cannot answer this question, and I do not have sufficient information.

[Al-Sa'ih] Has the role of the Palestinian negotiating delegation ended since the declaration of principles was signed?

['Abd-al-Shafi] The known role of the Palestinian delegation ended when the declaration of principles was announced. We have thus far not been informed whether we will be requested to continue with our negotiating tasks. We also do not have any information on what the leadership will decide in this regard. The leadership asked us to head the delegation in order to hold negotiations for a declaration of principles. The leadership has reached this declaration, so the delegation's role has actually ended.

Those who participated in the secret negotiations were acquainted with what happened in the 10 rounds of peace talks, and were also aware of the negotiations' impasse. No doubt, they took into account what happened in the 10 rounds. But the secret agreement failed to address the building of settlements, so the Palestine question and the Palestinian people have both lost much. To begin with, we were surprised by the agreement and knew nothing about it until we were notified that a declaration of principles was initialed. I was summoned to Tunis on 29 September 1993 to become acquainted with the agreement. I was not dissatisfied because I was not informed of the agreement in advance. I was dissatisfied with the agreement's content and negative aspects, the most important of which was viewing the occupied territories as disputed, rather than occupied, territories. Therefore, Israel continues to build settlements and bring in settlers. Israel also stressed both the legitimacy of these settlements and its illegitimate position on Jerusalem. All this has erected impregnable barriers on the path to an independent Palestinian state.

There is a great deal of talk about the economic arrangements. This is mentioned in the annexes. I am also dissatisfied with these arrangements, which would open the way for Israel to penetrate into the Arab world through the proposed economic arrangements. Hence, we should be careful, and we should not rush before knowing how the political cause will proceed.

The economic supplements point to expanded economic cooperation, which, I believe, goes beyond the requirements of this phase as if there has actually been a peaceful solution. In my opinion, negotiations with Israel should emphasize the need to implement the economic measures only after the whole political situation is ascertained.

[Al-Sa'ih] The PLO Central Council will meet on 10 October, what is on its agenda?

['Abd-al-Shafi] The PLO Central Council is the constitutional institution stemming from the Palestine National Council. I believe this meeting will aim at discussing and expressing views on the Palestinian-Israeli agreement for approval. It is not aimed at discussing the next details. I may attend as an observer based on a verbal request from President 'Arafat.

I do not predict resignations from the PLO Central Council. I opposed resignations from the PLO Executive Committee because I seriously consider them as negative and as something to be overcome. The Palestinian leadership should take care of this situation in order to expand the basis for decisionmaking.

Asked about his stand on the elections, Dr. 'Abd-al-Shafi said: Based on my rejection of the entire agreement, I refuse to take part in the elections of the interim stage. This has nothing to do with a clear resignation on my part. Things will be dealt with at the appropriate time.

Regarding the current Palestinian scene and the intifadah, Dr. 'Abd-al-Shafi said: No one knows the outcome of the current situation. There is a chance to mobilize Palestinian resources, stand decisively against illegitimate Israeli aspirations, and be steadfast. If there is leniency, which opens the way for Israeli expansion and aggression against Palestinian territories, I believe that this will entrench the status of no-peace and the next generations will be the ones concerned with the Palestinian future. I am sure that the intifadah will not stop. It is a voluntary operation that emanates from the Palestinian conscience and its strong adherence to the Palestinian rights and insistence on rejecting the occupation.

Commenting on the celebrations in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, which followed the signing of the Palestinian-Israeli agreement on a declaration of principles, Dr. 'Abd-al-Shafi said: These celebrations express the suffering of the kinfolk inside the occupied territories and their aspirations for a detente and an end to this suffering. As the proverb goes: "A man will clutch at a straw." The people inside the territories are dealing immaturely with this agreement and are not aware of its exact value. They are hoping that this agreement will end the occupation and achieve freedom and self-determination.

What is taking place now is a state of expectation, aspiration, and search for real measures toward everything that is just.

Islamic Jihad Leader Calls for New PLO

LD0810001593 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1530 GMT 7 Oct 93

[Text] Fathi al-Shaqaqi, secretary general of the Palestinian Islamic Jihad Movement, termed the recent PLO-Tel Aviv agreement as a failure, and called for the setting up of a new Palestinian liberation organization with a new leadership to continue the intifadah in Palestine.

In an interview with the Central News Unit, al-Shaqaqi termed the Arafat-Zionist regime as a huge treason against Palestinian aspirations and added: With the support of reactionary countries [keshvarha-ye mortaje'] 'Arafat is trying—instead of expanding the intifadah and turning it to a plan for awakening nations—to bring it under control and confront it.

Saying that the area of the Gaza and Jericho lands comprise only two percent of the whole occupied territories he added: Therefore 'Arafat has decided to accept a limited and incomplete self-rule in two percent of the Palestinian lands and sell the rest of that territory to the Israelis.

On the Palestinian groups' future plans to continue the uprising, al-Shaqaqi said: Islamic movements intend to expand their uprising along the line of the struggle against the process of comprise in Palestine. The Islamic Jihad Movement will also continue its general struggle in the 98 percent of the territories which have not been returned to those who made the compromise.

The secretary general of the Islamic Jihad Movement also announced: 'Arafat intends to bring his own forces to Gaza and Jericho so as to have a so-called iron fist to confront Islamic movements within the occupied territories. On the other side, the 88 Palestinian groups intend to fight against that process by the setting up of a Palestine liberation organization with a new leadership replacing the current PLO leaders. He added: Those groups intend to set up a new program on the basis of the National Palestinian Charter.

Finally he referred to the expansion of the intifadah in the occupied lands and said: Demonstrations against and opposition to the Zionists have gained new momentum and recently we have witnessed armed operations against Israeli forces in those same territories.

At the conclusion he termed the agreement between 'Arafat and the Zionist regime as an alliance against Arabs, the Islamic ummah, and the region.

10 Factions To Form National Front Against Accord

JN0710183393 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1700 GMT 7 Oct 93

[Sana' al-Imam dispatch from Damascus]

[Text] Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine [DFLP] sources have announced that the 10 Damascus-based Palestinian factions will call—at the end of their meeting in Damascus this evening—for the convening of a comprehensive national popular conference in the occupied territory and for the convening of a national popular conferences in the diaspora. These conference will produce a broad national front for all the opponents of the Israeli-Palestinian agreement, the DFLP sources said.

The DFLP sources added the comprehensive national conference will elect a national leadership for the front and will produce a new national council. Today's meeting will announce the principles for forming a preparatory committee for the popular conference.

The DFLP sources said that the meeting today aims at underscoring the need for adhering to the PLO Charter and foiling the agreement through supporting and continuing the intifadah. The sources added that the meeting will also call on the 10 factions to boycott all organizations and institutions that shoulder political and administrative responsibility for implementing the Israeli- Palestinian agreement and to boycott the elections for the administrative self-rule council, because the self-rule administration will turn into a repressive force against the Palestinian people under the control of the occupation forces.

Agenda of Damascus Meeting Noted

JN0710205193 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 2000 GMT 7 Oct 93

[Sana' al-Imam dispatch from Damascus, carried within the "Panorama" program]

[Text] Four main issues figure highly on the agenda of the meeting to be held this evening by the leaders of the 10 Palestinian factions [opposed to the Arab-Israeli peace talks]. These issues are the following:

1. The position to be adopted toward the PLO, and efforts to prepare for the proclamation of a unified Palestinian front to restore PLO unity. The leadership of

this front will emanate from Palestinian popular conferences to be held in the occupied territories and the diaspora.

2. Efforts to prepare for a Palestinian popular boycott of all the institutions that the limited self-rule administration in Gaza and Jericho could set up.

3. Efforts to unify the popular stance in the occupied territories in the direction of boycotting any self-rule elections that could be held there. Efforts to mobilize the public opinion against such elections.

4. Reiteration of the unity of the Palestinian people inside and outside the homeland, including the territories occupied in 1948.

The meeting to be held by the 10 factions today will identify mechanisms for the implementation of these points, as a spokesman for the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine has stated.

'Arafat Said Staffing PLO Central Council With Supporters

JN0710200493 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1915 GMT 7 Oct 93

[Text] Damascus—The Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine [DFLP] has accused PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat of intending to fill the PLO Central Council with supporters of the Israeli-Palestinian agreement.

In a statement today, the front said that 'Arafat is attempting to appoint 70 of his supporters as members of the Central Council to create a new council that supports his agreement with Israel—an agreement that has failed to secure popular and legal support.

The statement adds that the DFLP Central Committee has endorsed the withdrawal of the Front's representatives from the PLO Executive Committee.

PFLP-GC Assails Jibril for Threat to 'Arafat

LD0710215093 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 7 Oct 93

[Text] The political bureau of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command [PFLP-GC] yesterday issued a appeal in Damascus in which it warned Ahmad Jibril, the secretary general of the front, following the threats he made against brother President Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat]. Addressing Ahmad Jibril in their appeal, the national committees [as heard] said: What is the difference between what you did in Tripoli [Lebanon; in 1983] and what [Ari'el] Sharon did in Sabra and Shatila [in 1982], and what is the difference between you and Sharon in the threats he made one day to kill Brother Abu-'Ammar and your own threats today to commit the same crime.

The statement brings back to mind what was committed by Ahmad Jibril against our Palestinian people in Tall al-Za'tar and Tripoli. The statement says: If Jibril has forgotten the blood of those he had executed from our people and our front, we remind him of what his criminal hands has perpetrated by killing loyal sons of our people. The statement revealed his meditative secluded stays in the Iranian city of Qom and his agreements there to undermine the Palestinian scene.

The statement calls for the immediate departure of Ahmad Jibril forever for the Iranian city of Qom, and stressed that any attempt to undermine the Palestinian scene will find someone to confront it from inside the front.

Fatah Hawks To Resist if IDF 'Hunting' Continues

TA0810110993 Tel Aviv HADASHOT in Hebrew 8 Oct 93 p 6

[Report by Sulayman al-Shafa'i]

[Excerpt] "If the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] continues hunting us after 13 October, we will resume the armed struggle." This was stated in an ultimatum relayed by three wanted members of the Fatah Hawks to Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin and the IDF.

The ultimatum, relayed through Palestinian sources, followed the killing on Tuesday [5 October] of a Fatah Hawks fugitive, Nayil al-Rifi from the al-Tuffah neighborhood, during a clash with a Border Police unit.

The three fugitives are Zayyad al-Hasanat (20), the commander of the Fatah Hawks in the central Gaza Strip; Ghassan Abu-Da'im (20); and Marwan Abu-Maghisib (23). According to al-Hasanat, "we have decided to stop shooting at and carrying terror out attacks against Israeli targets, but the IDF continues chasing us and killing us one by one."

Al-Hasanat further said that "the current state of affairs will force us to change our ways and not accept a one-sided cease fire. If no new decision is made regarding our matter by 13 October, we will respond with fire against any attempt by the IDF to hurt us and we will exacerbate the attacks against the occupying forces in the Gaza Strip. Additionally, we will coordinate military operations with our brothers in other organizations." [passage omitted]

U.S. 'Arrogance' in Somalia Seen Undermining UN

PM0710141693 London AL-QUDS AL-'ARABI in Arabic 6 Oct 93 p11

[Editorial: "The Poor Wreak Vengeance on U.S. Arrogance"]

[Text] The U.S. Government has sent new reinforcements in support of its forces operating with the UN forces in Somalia in an attempt to minimize its human

losses as General Mohamed Farah Aidid's forces escalate their commando operations.

Reports from Mogadishu say that, over the past few days, 12 U.S. Marines were killed, 75 were wounded, two helicopters brought down, and six Americans, including one pilot, kidnapped by the Somali militia. The U.S. Government has not had that rate of losses since the Vietnam war.

In an attempt to answer congressional critics of his administration's handling of the Somali crisis, U.S. President Bill Clinton has pledged to protect his forces and put an end to that war of attrition.

The Clinton administration is unlikely to succeed in fulfilling its pledges if it maintains its current policy of humiliating the Somalis and killing large numbers of Somalis in the course of its attempts to capture fugitive Gen. Aidid.

The U.S. forces went to Somalia to protect the relief convoys from militia attacks and save the lives of hundreds of thousands of starving people, but the behavior of these forces exposed the real aims, which are quite different from the stated aims.

It was clear from the first day of the U.S. forces' arrival in Somalia that there was a plan to rearrange the Horn of Africa situation in a way that would serve long-term U.S. interests. They began by disarming the militias and trying to impose a government that did not represent all Somali factions and groups.

It should be noted that the current aim of the U.S. forces in Somalia is to pursue Gen. Aidid and try to arrest him so that he can be brought back in a cage, just like General Noriega. We do not believe that such a thing is in harmony with the reputation and standing of the United Nations, which is used by the U.S. forces as an umbrella.

Statistics indicate that over 400 Somalis have so far been killed in massacres committed by the U.S. forces when they stormed a number of villages and positions where they thought Gen. Aidid was hiding.

It is true that the U.S. forces have the upper hand militarily, but their failure to control Aidid's primitively armed and trained forces shows that their presence in Somalia will not be comfortable at all.

The sight of the Somalis dancing on the wreckage of a helicopter shot down by the resistance shows how the people there really feel about Western and, especially, U.S. presence in Somalia.

If the Marines were able to score an easy military victory in the Gulf war because they relied on air bombardment and avoided ground combat, the situation may be completely different in Somalia where the vast numbers, the different terrain, and the emerging Islamic trend influence are all factors greatly favorable to the escalation of the resistance operations.

The United States, cured of the Vietnam complex, is waking up to a new complex called the "Aidid complex" as it sees the plastic bags containing the bodies of Marines killed almost daily in completely unjustified battles.

The U.S. arrogance has undermined the United Nations and its humanitarian role and has turned that international organization from an organization with noble aims to an organization managed with the mentality of cowboys hungry for revenge.

Egypt

'Deteriorating Situation' in Somalia Seen

Foreign Ministry Expresses Regret

NC0710161293 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1405 GMT 7 Oct 93

[Text] Cairo, 7 Oct (MENA)—Egypt expressed deep regret and concern over recent events in Somalia during which a number of Somali and UN troops have fallen victim.

A statement issued by the Foreign Ministry today said that recent events in Somalia are the consequence of the deteriorating situation there and the collapse of the Somali state and this requires the exertion of all possible efforts to enable the Somali people and the international community to rebuild Somalia.

The Foreign Ministry statement added that the most important objective of African policies toward Somalia, including the Egyptian one, is to establish peace in various parts of the country, achieve national reconciliation between the various peace-loving Somali factions that care about the Somalis' interests, and preserve the unity of the Somali state.

It called on all Somali parties to take positive stands that will allow the implementation of the resolutions taken by the reconciliation conference held in Addis Ababa last February.

The statement said that Egypt, together with its brothers in the OAU and in the Horn of Africa, in particular, is ready to help the fraternal Somali people overcome the current critical stage.

Musa Offers Views on Events

NC0410131193 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1208 GMT 4 Oct 93

[Text] Cairo, 4 Oct (MENA)—Commenting on the current situation in Somalia, Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa has stated that Egypt is concerned about the interests of the Somali people and the need to achieve national reconciliation, as the situation there remains serious.

He said Egypt is not concerned about leaders, and it is asking the Somali leaders to respect Somali interests and refrain from pursuing personal ambitions. What destroyed Somalia and led it to this serious stage is the rivalry among a number of leaders at the expense of national interests, he said.

Musa said that General Farah Aidid does not represent all Somalis. He added that it should be understood that a clash with UN forces is not in Somalia's national interests. These forces, he said, are operating within Security Council resolutions and are there to lead and help national reconciliation in the country.

If there are some excesses, Musa said, then they should be handled in a different way because the current way of dealing with the situation is not promoting stability in Somalia.

Paper Warns Against 'New Vietnam'

NC0710215993 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2130 GMT 7 Oct 93

[Text] Cairo, 7 Oct (MENA)—AL-AKHBAR urges wisdom in handling the situation in Somalia so that no further blood will be shed and a new Vietnam can be avoided.

In its editorial for tomorrow, Friday, the paper says that current developments in Somalia show that the U.S. Administration is increasingly sliding toward an abyss that seems more like the Vietnamese quagmire.

The paper notes that the U.S. forces went to Somalia to participate in an international humane mission after the world was shocked and saddened by media pictures of thousands of children turned into skeletons by famine.

The paper highlights the need for avoiding as much as possible armed battles with any national elements, no matter what the provocation may be, especially if these elements demonstrate irresponsibility and carelessness for the lives of the Somalis themselves—so much so that they attack and loot international relief convoys.

AL-AKHBAR urges avoidance by all means of involvement in the years-long internal conflict and confinement of all efforts to the humanitarian mission, in which many countries are participating. It says the United Nations must be responsible for the entire relief process.

Clinton Congratulates Mubarak on Reelection

NC0710132093 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1108 GMT 7 Oct 93

[Text] Cairo, 7 Oct (MENA)—U.S. President Bill Clinton has expressed his sincere congratulations to President Husni Mubarak on winning a third term in office. Clinton said he looks forward to the continuation of close cooperation between Egypt and the United States to consolidate and enhance peace in the Middle East.

This message came in a congratulatory cable that the U.S. President sent to President Mubarak. President Clinton reiterated his country's commitment to support Egypt under President Mubarak's leadership, to back economic reform and stability based on democracy and social development, and to achieve a better future for all the nations in the region.

Mubarak Sends Reply Message

NC0710173793 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1430 GMT 7 Oct 93

[Excerpt] Cairo, 7 Oct (MENA)—[passage omitted] President Husni Mubarak replied to President Bill Clinton's congratulations with a message in which he expressed his

pride in the existing bilateral cooperation in all fields. He also expressed his belief in the need to seek without delay to expand the scope of peace so as to include all the Arab fronts in order to reach a new era that will enable all the peoples of the region to mobilize their resources and potentials for serving the objectives of development and progress.

UAE President Greets Mubarak on Election Win

NC0610123993 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1136 GMT 6 Oct 93

[Text] Cairo, 6 Oct (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak received a telephone call this afternoon from Shaykh Zayid Bin-Sultan Al Nuhayyan, president of the United Arab Emirates [UAE].

During the telephone conversation, President Zayid congratulated President Mubarak on his and the UAE people's behalf on being reelected as president for a third term.

Shaykh Zayid also congratulated the Egyptian people on their continuing march forward led by President Mubarak.

Cooperation Protocol Signed With South Africa

NC0710103593 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 0435 GMT 7 Oct 93

[From the press review]

[Text] AL-JUMHURIYAH reports that Engineer Muhammad Mahir Abazah, minister of electricity and energy, yesterday attended the signing of a technical cooperation protocol between Egypt and South Africa on electricity and energy.

The paper cites the minister as saying after the signing ceremony that the protocol defined the technical aspects of cooperation between the two countries' energy experts on the project linking African electrical grids, especially the link with Zaire, and coordination with countries in central and southern Africa as part of an African strategy to set up a unified African electrical network.

Israel's Call for End of Arab Boycott Rebutted

NC0610121093 Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic 2 Oct 93 p 9

["Just an Opinion" column by Salah Muntasir: "Payment in Advance"]

[Text] A statement by Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres reminds me of an old story about a Jew named Cohen. He had a debt to repay, but he kept stalling, which annoyed the creditor. One day, Cohen set a date for repayment and invited the creditor to his house. On the date, the creditor found Cohen in his garden with mango seeds in his hand. Cohen told the creditor: I will plant these seeds in the garden and water them everyday until they grow and bear fruit. I will repay the debt when I sell the fruit. The creditor was shocked, but Cohen went on: I have calculated that the price of the fruit will far exceed the debt, so I invited you here to pay me the difference!

This is exactly what Peres did when he called on the Arab countries to end their trade boycott against Israel. He said that now that Israel has signed an agreement with the PLO, the Arab countries should end their enmity toward Israel. I wonder whether Peres is naive or assumes that we are. The Palestinian-Israeli agreement is nothing more than the mango seeds planted in that garden. To date, they have borne no fruit. Israel has repaid nothing of the debt it owes the Palestinians. All that has happened is an agreement on repayment; the Palestinians have received not one installment. The Israeli occupation of the Palestinian territory remains, the Israeli settlements on Palestinian land remain in their place with their inhabitants, the Palestinian refugees expelled from their country remain in camps, and Jerusalem, which the Israelis captured in 1967, remains in their hands. Yet Peres wants to get the maximum Israel can get after peace is achieved and Palestinian rights are restored. If the Israelis are demanding this before implementing even one item of the agreement they signed, what will they demand after taking the first step in their withdrawal from Gaza and Jericho and after the election?

Israel is in a hurry to receive the full price for solving the Palestine issue, while still at the first step toward a solution. Israel still holds the seeds of the mango tree; it has not planted them. The tree has not grown, has produced no leaves, and has borne no fruit. Yet Israel wants to take from us before repaying its debt!

Paper: West's 2-Week Notice to Libya Not Enough

NC0710131993 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0602 GMT 7 Oct 93

[Text] Cairo, 7 Oct (MENA)—AL-AHRAM newspaper expresses optimism about the beginning of a new relationship between Libya and the world free of threats and sanctions, and points to the efforts of the Arab League and Arab countries, led by Egypt, on this matter.

In its editorial today, the paper says that there are indications confirming that the Lockerbie issue is close to being resolved, heading off new sanctions on Libya, which the West—represented by the United States, France, and Britain—wants.

The paper adds that by its announcement that it does not object to handing over the two suspects to the Scotland Yard authorities for trial, Libya has covered the greater part of the distance and nothing remains except the details.

The paper notes the importance of the three Western countries' two-week notice and the postponement of a draft resolution imposing new sanctions on Libya. Yet the paper says that the notice in itself is not enough to resolve the crisis. It says that there are other aspects that have to be addressed, most importantly how the suspects

will be handed over and setting up a meeting of representatives from the Western countries and Libya to work out all the details. Besides, the paper adds, the West should confirm that handing over the two suspects would fulfill the requirements of the UN resolutions and that the sanctions would be lifted.

These points, the paper says, would contribute greatly to ending the crisis and bringing the situation back to normal.

Former Chief of Staff Released From Jail

NC0810072293 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0815 GMT 7 Oct 93

[Text] Cairo, 7 Oct (MENA)—Retired Lieutenant General Sa'd-al-Din al-Shadhili, a former chief of staff of the Armed Forces, has been released in implementation of a presidential decree issued by President Husni Mubarak pardoning prisoners who have served over half their prison terms to mark the 20th anniversary of the October victory. Retired Lt. Gen. al-Shadhili has left the military prison he was in for home.

A responsible military judiciary source said the retired lieutenant general was among a group of military personnel freed yesterday because they qualified for release under the presidential decree.

The Military Court had passed a verdict in absentia against the retired lieutenant general after it sentenced him to three years for revealing military secrets.

Retired Lt. Gen. al-Shadhili returned to Egypt on 14 March 1992 and was put in a military jail to serve his time. He completed half the term on 13 September.

The responsible military judiciary source said he was the Armed Forces chief of staff during the October 1973 war. He was dismissed from his post after the war ended over a dispute with late President Anwar al-Sadat on how to clear the pocket [of Egyptian territory occupied by Israel in 1973] and was replaced by Lieutenant General al-Jimsi. Afterward, Lt. Gen. al-Shadhili was appointed Egypt's ambassador to London, Lisbon, and then Barcelona.

Islamic Group Head on Human Rights Abuses in Prisons

NC0610113393 Cairo AL-SHA'B in Arabic 28 Sep 93 p 2

[Article by "detainee" Dr. Ahmad 'Abduh Salim, "leader of the Islamic Group in Asyut": "Picture Inside the Prison—Torture, Murder, and Slow Death"]

[Excerpts] While the fanfare of nomination in the era of false democracy proceeds, the columns of tortured prisoners keep marching through Egyptian prisons. While the drums beat in ecstasy to celebrate the most glorious era of human freedoms, the drums of war are beating against all types of human freedoms, beginning with the freedom of doctrine and life through freedom of thought to freedom to breathe. [passage omitted]

The media campaign launched by the government's press seeks to serve some malignant goals, most importantly, to cover up the flagrant abuses of human rights in the prisons. These abuses go as far as murder by torture. The latest case of murder by torture took place a few days ago. Detainee Ahmad Faruq Ahmad, a builder, was accused of some of the incidents involving the Islamic groups and police personnel. Two months ago, prisoner Muhammad Jum'ah was killed by the prison administration at the Turah prison. Detainee Sayyid 'Urabi died from extreme medical negligence at Abu Za'bal prison. Before him, detainee Muhammad Sallumah died at the Turah prison hospital because of extreme carelessness in treating him for a blocked intestine. All these cases represent the utmost violations of human rights, which were condemned by all Egyptian and foreign groups concerned with human rights. These groups recommended that treatment at prison be reconsidered so as to deal with prisoners and detainees as human beings, not animals. These groups inspected prisons and determined that the buildings, facilities, and treatment befit animals, not humans.

Amid this bloodstained picture and signs of torture, the Interior Ministry is now trying to cover up the issue. This would have been good and civilized had the impression of human rights in Egypt changed by changing the inhuman way in which Egyptians are treated in prisons and police stations. But authoritative and dictatorial regimes can never do without oppression, torture, or persecution, knowing that once they allow some sort of freedom and human rights, they will inevitably fall. This is why the Interior Ministry, cooperating with the government media, is trying to convince the public that the prisoners and detainees deserve more than the murder and torture to which they are subjected. They even went as far as to try to convince the public that the prisons have become five-star facilities. The role of the prison administration, as usual, was to instigate incidents, while the role of writers and journalists was to write about them without examining the facts or the background.

The second goal of the latest campaign is to prepare the public for more human rights abuses in Egyptian prisons; several state security officers have stated this. They believe that this sort of violence used by the government against the Islamic groups, whether during their arrest, their liquidation in the streets or at military courts, or their inhuman treatment at prisons, won't be enough to suppress the Islamic movement and that more is needed. Proving that these are precisely the goals of the latest campaign is that the latest incidents [involving riots at prisons and clashes among political and criminal prisoners] were instigated. Detainees and criminal prisoners have stated that one state security officer incited a group of criminal prisoners against political prisoners, thus triggering the incidents. This is what many criminal prisoners stated in the Prosecution investigation.

Armored Cars, Missiles Sold to Arab Countries

NC0310151493 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1254 GMT 3 Oct 93

[Excerpt] Cairo, 3 Oct (MENA)—Lieutenant General Ibrahim al-'Urabi, head of the Arab Industrialization Organization, has said the organization is exporting its production of the armored car Fahd to some Arab countries. Contracts have been established with two Arab countries to purchase al-Fatih antiminefield missiles, which the organization produces, after these missiles performed well in the war to liberate Kuwait.

In statements to journalists after inspecting the organization's air show in Madinat Nasr in Cairo today, he said the organization is continuing its military production plan because military production is its main task. He said there is full cooperation with the Egyptian military factories to produce the Armed Forces' requirements and export part of the production. [passage omitted]

Libya

Foreign Liaison Official on Lockerbie Issue

LD0810010793 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1935 GMT 7 Oct 93

[Excerpts] Tripoli, 7 Oct (JANA)—Brother 'Umar al-Muntasir, the secretary of the General People's Committee for Foreign Liaison and International Cooperation, has reaffirmed the good relations in which good neighborliness, understanding, and joint cooperation in all fields between the Great Jamahiriyah and the state from which the former Italian settlers had come, at a time when the Libyan Arab people are celebrating the 23d anniversary of Revenge Day.

In the speech he delivered today before the UN General Assembly, al-Muntasir referred to the most important international issues. He said that the international situation has witnessed many developments, and before I express the attitude of the Great Jamahiriyah vis-a-vis these developments, I would like to submit the Lockerbie crisis and its connection with the international changes. He said that the issue is not remote from the international transformations—in fact the issue is one of the results of the transformation.

This is manifested in the fact that some states pursue the policy of imposing solutions for their disputes with other states in a manner that contravenes the UN Charter and the international charters and norms, deliberately adopting the policy of double standards, especially if the matter concerns a state whose policies and stances are independent. This is applicable with regard to the dispute between the Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah and France, Britain, and the United States, when these states declared that they suspected that two Libyans were involved in the Pan Am airliner incident and the UTA incident. They demanded that two Libyans be handed over to be tried in Scotland or the United States. He declared that since being notified of the matter, the Libyan authorities took the necessary legal measures but the other parties, instead of cooperating with these authorities and awaiting the results of the investigations, went to the UN Security Council and pushed it to deal with this dispute according to Chapter Seven of the charter, which cannot be applied as Libya has not threatened anyone, nor has it subjected world peace or international security to danger.

The brother secretary of the General People's Committee for Foreign Liaison and International Cooperation indicated that Libya had not rejected the principle of a trial for the two suspects and that it had stressed this from the very beginning. He added that all that Libya demanded and insisted on was to have a just and impartial trial in which all the legal and psychological guarantees [as received] would be provided. In this respect, Libya had of late had intensive consultations and contacts, and we conveyed their results to the secretary general on 24 September 1993.

Libya considered the secretary general's reply sufficient and acceptable and believed that there was only one way left to solve the crisis, namely to persuade the two suspects to appear before a Scottish court. The Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah was endeavoring to encourage them to do so and the secretary general was informed about this in two letters enclosed in document number 26523 as dated 1 October 1993... [ellipses as received]

He stressed that the Great Jamahiriyah has responded in a practical manner to the demands of UN Security Council Resolution 731, a matter that not only requires abandoning efforts in the direction of imposing stricter sanctions that were imposed according to Resolution 748, but also stipulates the urgent lifting of these sanctions—and this is what we are asking this assembly, which represents the conscience of the world, to do. [passage omitted]

He added that the Jamahiriyah supports all the initiatives that seek to realize this, including strengthening the machinery of the United Nations on disarmament and in particular the disarmament conference, which concluded its work with the agreement on chemical weapons.

This agreement is an ambitious document along the road to total and general disarmament. Nevertheless, my country refrained from signing this agreement until now because the area to which Libya belongs has weapons of destruction that do not come under the guarantees and international inspection system.

In the shadow of these conditions it is difficult to deal with the chemical weapons agreement without tackling the weapons of mass destruction in the Middle East, and first of all nuclear weapons. [passage omitted]

Lawyer: Libya To 'Persuade' Suspects To Surrender

LD0710155193 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1520 GMT 7 Oct 93

[Text] London, 7 Oct (JANA)—The Scottish lawyer Alistair Duff who represents the two Libyan suspects in the Lockerbie case has said that there is nothing he can do in any way to bring the accused to trial.

In a statement to a JANA correspondent in London, he expressed his belief that Libya will perhaps persuade the accused to surrender. The Scottish lawyer criticized the United States for using the United Nations as a means to intimidate Libya.

JANA Editor Views French Statement on UN Resolution

LD0410170593 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1410 GMT 4 Oct 93

[Text] New York, 4 Oct (JANA)—The French permanent representative at the United Nations, Jean-Bernard Merimee, made a proposal in which he said: "We do not

insist that the United Nations adopt a resolution but we are tabling it for discussion."

When asked when France would insist on adopting the resolution, he told journalists France will not give a fixed date. He said the postponement occurred in view of Libya's good intentions and encouraging words last Wednesday [29 September] when it urged the two suspects to agree to appear before a Scottish court.

JANA's local affairs editor described the French view as reasonable and acceptable. He said Libya did, indeed, urge the two suspects to choose to be tried anywhere, but would not force them to surrender. That would contradict the principles of human rights and other international norms, which do not permit a state to hand over its citizens by force to another state for trial. The editor added that the French representative's statements constituted the correct assessment of the situation by France; the U.S. and British Governments should follow France's lead. The policy of sanctions will not lead to a solution of the problem and would only make the Libyan people tougher because of Libya's commitment to its legitimate rights and national sovereignty.

Al-Qadhdhafi Receives Tunisian Interior Minister

LD0610193593 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1746 GMT 6 Oct 93

[Text] Tripoli, 6 Oct (JANA)—The brother leader of the revolution has received brother Abdallah Kellal, Tunisian minister of state and minister of the interior, and the personal envoy of Tunisian President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali. Following the audience brother Abdallah Kellal made a statement in which he expressed the feelings of appreciation and pride which President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali harbors for the brother leader of the revolution and the Libyan Arab people. He said: I have come as a special envoy from President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali to the brother leader of the revolution within the framework of continuous consultation on issues of common interest, whether at bilateral, Arab, or international levels.

Brother Abdallah Kellal added: I have been asked by the brother leader of the revolution to convey his greetings and appreciation to President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali, the maker of the 7 November transformation.

Paper Urges Arabs To 'Look East to China'

LD0110223193 Tripoli JANA in English 1530 GMT 1 Oct 93

[Excerpt] Tripoli, 1 October (JANA)—In its edition published yesterday under the headline "Let us go eastward to redress the lost balance of our world; China in the face of the dragon; Turning to China is a project for the future," AL-SHAMS wrote about what we Arabs should do now. It said that if we want to find a way out of the impasse: The truth is that the circumstances of our world do not leave us a choice, and these circumstances allow us only one response, that we should turn our backs on the west and that we should look east to China.

We will add to its strength with our strength; we will consolidate its standing, and we will benefit from its international weight in facing up to the enemy who is lying in wait. There is no doubt that we have the opportunity and the possibility to act, to influence ... and to speak."

There wide horizons for the growth of our Arab trade with China in all fields. Our trade with China, which has reached a volume of $2 billion annually, still represents only 1.6 percent of China's total trade and a meager portion of our Arab trade, which impels us to change the course of trade toward China. This is not being said as propaganda, but is a genuine call to make use of the advantages of China's trade, cheap raw materials and labor, and to escape from the trade of the west, which has made us bear the effects of inflation and the continuous rise in prices, and has plunged us into indebtedness and its burdens.

We have a unique opportunity to invest in China our wealth, of which the Arabs [as received] have taken possession of $500 million. All [this money] is threatened by the effects of inflation and speculation in the financial markets, is exposed to being frozen and is diminishing day after day. This is not propaganda either, but a call to direct our wealth to where there are greater opportunities and to where there is no freezing [of assets], no threats, and no speculation.

We have opportunities to deal in cash with China where there is no World Bank with its conditions and its choices, where there is no IMF which has become a tool for imposing the choices of the west on peoples against their will. We have opportunities to establish a political alliance with China on all issues connected with the freedom, security, and safety of this world. Let us establish a united front with the citizens of the south, who are victims of imports and domination, to confront all forms of world arrogance.

This call to promote China is not propaganda, but is a practical project. We must work toward bringing closer the peoples, governments, parties, political organizations, trade unions, organizations, enterprises, and individuals, a project with which we can defend our existence and resist the pressure on us.

It is a project carrying with it both no and yes. No to arrogance and haughtiness; no to goods from the West, its trade, investments and culture.

Yes to China where there is no colonialism, no hegemony or pressure; yes to establishing our alliance with the victims of domination from among the peoples of the states of the south. Yes to an international front "with China at its heart" to confront the blue dragon and settle our historical score with so as to restore to our world the balance that it has lost. [passage omitted]

Meeting in Surt To Prepare for GPC Session

LD0610084993 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 0753 GMT 6 Oct 93

[Text] Surt, 6 Oct (JANA)—A source at the secretariat of the General People's Congress [GPC] has announced that a meeting will be held at al-Wafa' Hall in Surt this Saturday [9 October]. This meeting, which will be attended by members of the General People's Secretariat and Basic People's Congresses' secretaries, will examine preparations under way to convene the second ordinary session [of the GPC] for 1993.

Mauritania

President Receives Guinea-Bissau Envoy, Message

AB0710223693 Nouakchott ORTM Radio in French 1930 GMT 7 Oct 93

[Text] President Maaouiya Ould Sid'Ahmed Taya this morning received a special envoy from Guinea-Bissau. The envoy, Flavio Cicero Provencia, came with a message from President Joao Bernardo Vieira. Let us listen to him.

[Begin Provencia recording] I would first like to express my gratitude to the president for kindly granting me this audience. I came in keeping with the normal relations between Guinea-Bissau and Mauritania. As you know, we have relations that date back to the liberation war in Guinea-Bissau. We could say that Mauritania is one of the mainstays in West Africa with whom we have excellent relations. It is in this respect that I came and also in view of the friendly and brotherly ties between President Vieira and President Taya as well as the friendship between our two countries and our two peoples. [end recording]

SDAR Emissary Delivers President's Message

AB0710102593 Nouakchott ORTM Radio in French 1930 GMT 6 Oct 93

[Text] President Maaouiya Ould Sid'Ahmed Taya today received Abdelkader Taleb, Saharan Democratic Arab Republic [SDAR] interior minister and special emissary of SDAR President Mohamed Abdelaziz, in the presence of Presidential Advisor Mohamed Adlani. After the meeting, the emissary said he bore a message from the SDAR president to the head of state. The message, he said, was in line with bilateral consultations and strengthening of the brotherly and friendly relations between the two brotherly peoples. He added that the message is mainly about the recent developments in the implementation of the peace plan in Western Sahara. It is also about issues relating to the definition of identity and vote counting concerning the next referendum. Mr. Taleb further stressed that the audience centered on bilateral relations, adding that the president is following with great interest every detail concerning the situation.

Islamic Fundamentalist Stabs Priests at Mass

AB0510163593 Libreville Africa No. 1 in French 0730 GMT 5 Oct 93

[Text] In Mauritania there has been an attempted murder of two Catholic fathers who were savagely stabbed in the course of a religious mass. The two prelates were immediately flown to France where the extent of the gravity of their wounds has not yet been established. The attacker was neutralized by the police. In Nouakchott, it is generally held that this is one of the first bloody manifestations of fundamentalism. From Nouakchott, Salem Mechbo Salem reports.

[Begin recording] The two French prelates, Father Paul and Father Rene, were preparing to conduct mass in Nouakchott in the evening of 3 October when a man wearing a jelaba, a big kaftan worn in the east and in all Muslim countries, entered the church and with a big knife, managed to stab the two French fathers repeatedly, who evidently had no means of self-defense. While committing his crime the man shouted: Allahou Ahkbar, God is the Greatest. He asked to see the pope to, as he put it, settle his scores with him, according to eyewitnesses present at the scene. The incident ended with the arrest of the Islamic fundamentalist who is currently being held by the police.

The two French prelates were first rushed to the casualty ward of Nouakchott Hospital before their emergency evacuation to Paris on board an Air France plane. Two French hospital staff accompanied them on the trip.

The French ambassador in Nouakchott, Michel Rainbaud, has formally declined to make any comments on these serious incidents. The attacker's nationality is not yet known, however, but French eyewitnesses working with the embassy claim that the attacker is Mauritanian. The police in Nouakchott have neither denied nor confirmed this.

This is the first time such an incident has occurred in Mauritania. Islamic fundamentalism is certainly present in the country, but it is not dangerous as in the case of some other Maghreb countries like Algeria or Tunisia although there are many Algerians and Tunisians in Mauritania. [end recording]

Morocco

EC Official on Accords With Rabat, Israel

LD0210152893 Rabat MAP in English 1234 GMT 2 Oct 93

[Text] Brussels, Oct. 02 (MAP)—The European Commission wants to balance the negotiations mandate to reach Moroccan-EC partnership accord with making progress in the discussion to reach an EC-Israel association accord, a top official of the EC Commission told the Moroccan news agency here Friday [1 October].

"The commission did its work through asking (in December 1992) the council to entrust it with a negotiation mandate. Now, we wait for the green light by the ministerial council", he added.

On the other hand, the negotiation mandate with Morocco is hampered with a Spanish opposition, for Madrid had presented lately a memorandum in this respect.

For its part, the Tunisian dossier is opposed by Greece especially on the part dealing with olive oil.

Air Force Holds Joint Air Exercises With Belgium

LD0510113193 Rabat MAP in Arabic 1030 GMT 5 Oct 93

[Text] Brussels, 5 Oct (MAP)—An official source informed MAP in Brussels that a Belgian Air Force formation comprising fifteen F16 and Hercules C130 aircraft and dozens of mechanical engineers had landed at Meknes, 140 km away from Rabat, to carry out low-altitude flying exercises for two weeks.

A first Belgian group had carried out low-altitude flying exercises at 30 meters at Meknes military base in March 1987, while the latest exercise of this kind dates back to March and April of last year.

The exercise comes within the framework of a military cooperation agreement between the Moroccan Royal Air Force and the Belgian Air Force, signed on 11 March 1992 in Rabat. This agreement, which replaced the previous one signed in April 1987, determines the legal framework and structures of military cooperation between the two kingdoms.

Association Publishes Bibliographical Magazine

LD0710173093 Rabat MAP in English 1305 GMT 7 Oct 93

[Text] Rabat, Oct. 07 (MAP)—The 'Association des Auteurs Marocains' published recently a special issue of the bibliographical magazine 'LE LIVRE MAROCAIN' covering all what had been published during the period 1988-1989. The editors of the 400 page-issue said the publication gives a concise idea on the books, periodicals and university researches and dissertations that appeared during this period.

Sudan

Government Denies Supporting Somalia's Aidid

NC0710212693 Paris AFP in English 2041 GMT 7 Oct 93

[Text] Khartoum, Oct 7 (AFP)—The Sudanese government denied Thursday [7 October] U.S. allegations that it was supporting the Somali warlord Mohamed Farah Aidid.

Omar Beridou, first undersecretary at the foreign ministry here, told journalists that the allegations were "completely illogical" and "devoid of all foundation."

An unidentified U.S. State Department official had said earlier in Washington that the United States had intelligence indicating that Iran and Sudan were playing a role in Somalia.

State Department spokesman Michael McCurry said the United States was paying particular attention to the source of General Aidid's "growing military capacity."

Aidid's militia killed 13 U.S. soldiers and a Malaysian in a battle with U.N. forces in Mogadishu on Sunday.

Beridou said Sudan supported a peaceful settlement in Somalia.

"We are in touch with all Somali factions and we are working within the Organisation of African Unity for a settlement to this problem," he said.

Sudan and Iran have been placed on a list of states that Washington considers to be sponsoring terrorism.

Ambassador Confirms Plan To 'Save' Country

EA0710134093 Khartoum SUNA in English 0929 GMT 7 Oct 93

[Text] Khartoum, 7 Oct (SUNA)—Sudanese Ambassador to the United States Ahmad Sulayman has confirmed while presenting his credentials that Sudan Government had started since the advent of the revolution to implement [a plan to] save Sudan where conditions were badly deteriorating. He stressed that the government had implemented an economic and political programme to save the country and to [achieve] permanent peace in the south.

He explained that government believed that the south problem would not be solved except through negotiations and was convinced that the USA could play a positive role in the peace process. He pointed out Sudan's efforts to achieve self-sufficiency as an example to be followed by the developing countries that depended on the foreign aids. He also pointed out to the latest development in Khartoum and Washington relations, saying that it was possible to overcome the current situation and obstacles through bilateral efforts, adding that relations could be developed by the assistance of the American Administration.

Kuwait

* Assembly Sources on Aid to Palestinians

94P50003A London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 1 Oct 93 p 5

[Report by Hamad al-Jasir]

[Excerpt] Kuwait—According to Kuwaiti Crown Prince Shaykh Sa'ad al-'Abdallah al-Sabah, "Kuwait's interests will be the basis in any Kuwaiti decision to participate in supporting the autonomy plan for the Palestinians in the (occupied) West Bank and the Gaza Strip."

Parliamentary sources told AL-HAYAH that Shaykh Sa'ad announced to 17 Kuwaiti deputies with whom he met yesterday that "there will not be two separate opinions from the parliament and the government in Kuwait on this question, and there will be complete agreement on the final position of Kuwait as a people and a government."

Shaykh Sa'ad affirmed to the deputies in this special meeting, "The (Kuwaiti) Government is not prepared to support those who have attacked us in the past and have supported our enemy against us," referring to the PLO, but he did not reject all forms of Kuwaiti financial aid to the settlement plan.

The deputies disclosed that there is "a comprehensive coordination" with the states of the Gulf Cooperation Council [GCC] in the matter, "but Kuwait's participation will differ in form from the participation of the other states." No other details were given in this regard.

Shaykh Sa'ad opened his meeting with the deputies by asking that they discuss a number of questions, among them what has been circulated about international pressure on Kuwait to offer money to finance the peace plan between Israel and the Palestinians.

The deputies affirmed to Shaykh Sa'ad that they would refuse to support the PLO "in any way." The crown prince conveyed the fact that "the matter of Jerusalem is a matter of principle. It is not possible for Yasir 'Arafat or others to toy with this matter or trade with it, because Jerusalem is the property of the Arab and Islamic nations [ummatayn]." [passage omitted]

Interior Minister Views Security, Drugs Concerns

PM0710142393 London AL-HAWADITH in Arabic 8 Oct 93 pp 24-25

[Interview with Kuwaiti Interior Minister Shaykh Ahmad al-Hamud al-Sabah by Ahmad al-Buz in Kuwait; date not given]

[Excerpts] [Al-Buz] The brutal Iraqi invasion left behind a lot of ruin and destruction in all state institutions and citizen's property, of course. Did that hamper your control of security conditions after liberation?

[Al-Sabah] Actually the period that followed the battle to liberate Kuwait was a test period for Kuwaiti security organs, because the occupier left the country in a state of chaos and instability. It left behind the defeated army's remnants and ruin in all state institutions, especially security institutions—which represented a big challenge for the security organs in order for us to bring the situation under control and extend order, public security, and stability throughout the country. And praise be to God, despite these obstacles and difficulties, we managed to impose security control and restore security and stability as soon as possible—a huge achievement for the security organs which will be recorded by history. It was indeed a tough experience, and we passed the test with a success that exceeded all expectations. [passage omitted]

[Al-Buz] Do you watch infiltrators on the northern border only, or does vigilance requires that all Kuwait's land and sea borders be watched?

[Al-Sabah] All the state's borders are given utmost attention, and there is constant eagerness to protect them against infiltrators and smugglers. Apart from the fact they represent the state's sovereignty, they are also the first line which protects the country and citizens against any evil. Thus the borders are an important and very sensitive issue in all circumstances and at all times. The events experienced by Kuwait caused us to devote special interest to our northern border, especially as the Iraqi regime continues to insist on its treacherous intentions toward Kuwait and its people. While the military battle with the Iraqi regime has ended, the security battle is still continuing, as the regime continues to send its elements to the State of Kuwait to carry out subversive operations and try to shake security and stability. In brief, all borders are given attention, but the northern border remains the most sensitive and important, in order to avert the dangers threatening the security of the homeland and citizens. [passage omitted]

[Al-Buz] Is there anything new in issue of the subversive network announced earlier? And how do you interpret the existence of Kuwaitis in this network after all that the Kuwaitis suffered under the Iraqi occupation?

[Al-Sabah] I believe that we have announced everything relating to that issue through the media services. No information has been concealed from public opinion, except what concerns the state's security and stability. As for the existence of Kuwaitis in the network, it is an ordinary matter. Kuwaitis are not angels, and every society contains bad elements, even though these are rare in our society. The fact I want to emphasize is that there is not a single virtuous city in this world. [passage omitted]

[Al-Buz] It was proved after the Iraq-Iran war that the bombings which occurred in Kuwait in the eighties and the missiles launched and aircraft downed were all planned by Iraq while the aim was to give the impressio

that the culprit is Iran. Do you think that recent bombings of some video shops by the Iraqi gang are designed to harm relations with neighboring Iran?

[Al-Sabah] After what the Iraqi regime did, its aggression against Kuwait, and after all the masks and slogans raised by the regime have fallen away, we do not rule out anything the regime does against Kuwait and its people. But as a result of citizens' cooperation with security men, Kuwait will remain a steadfast fortress in the face of any attempts to harm its security and stability. With the internal front's resoluteness and the people's cohesion all the aggressive and malicious schemes hatched by the gangs of the spiteful regime in Baghdad will fail. [passage omitted]

[Al-Buz] A preoccupation for security services in many world states, including Kuwait, is, of course, the phenomenon of drug taking and drug trafficking. Do you regard it a security and social problem deserving some interest? And why has no law been passed as regards the death penalty for traffickers?

[Al-Sabah] Drug taking and trafficking is a problem from which all state suffer, even though in Kuwait it has not reached a phenomenon level. However, it is a social problem first and a security problem second. We are devoting a lot of attention to it. The competent security services are exerting their utmost efforts to stop drug smuggling attempts and arrest traffickers. They are also cooperating with official and popular quarters to enlighten people about the harmfulness of drugs from all aspects. They are also coordinating with the Health Ministry and the [Social] Affairs Ministry to treat drug addiction cases.

As for a law providing for the death penalty for drug traffickers, the Kuwaiti law stipulates the death penalty for the drug trafficker if he resists the security authorities. And I believe that the drug law in Kuwait is one of the most modern and suitable laws in this connection, to the extent that some states have adopted some of its stipulations. And I do not believe that the drug problem is to do with laws. All the institutions of society—beginning with the family through to school, media services, places of worship, clubs, and public associations, and so on—should cooperate together in order to get rid of this problem. [passage omitted]

[Al-Buz] Did Kuwait really refuse to hand over the terrorist network to the United States, as its aim was primarily to assassinate former President Bush?

[Al-Sabah] The target was the state of Kuwait's security and stability before the assassination of former President Bush. The case is political in nature, took place on Kuwaiti territory, and was uncovered by Kuwaiti security authorities. All measures are being taken in this connection. The suspects have been referred to the State Security Court in order to receive a deterrent punishment for what their evil souls intended to do and their criminal hands planned. Thus there is no need for them to stand trial away from Kuwait. The target wes any person inside Kuwait, so it is obvious for those implicated to stand trial inside Kuwait.

[Al-Buz] After the security services discovered big quantities of arms in an area in Kuwait, do you believe there are more illegal arms in other areas? And when will the country be cleansed of these excesses?

[Al-Sabah] The Interior Ministry's comprehensive plan after liberation was to cleanse the country of the defeated Iraqi Army's remnants. And security services devoted special interest to this plan, as a force was formed to collect the arms. Its task was to collect all types of arms and carry out search operations in all areas to collect arms, ammunition, and explosives and to provide security and safety to all those living on Kuwaiti territory. Legislatively, a law on arms and ammunition has been issued to put an end to the phenomenon of acquiring and using unlicensed arms. And I believe that with the security men's vigilance and their constant eagerness to cleanse the country of arms, we have made long strides vis-a-vis ridding the country of these arms and their evil. And soon Kuwait, God willing, be almost free from the the defeated Iraqi Army's remnants.

Yemen

Parliament Urged To 'Shoulder Responsibilities'

PM0710093593 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 6 Oct 93 p 1

[Faysal Makram report: " 'Ali Salih Urges Parliament To Exercise Its Powers"]

[Text] Sanaa—The committee assigned by the Yemeni parliament to hold consultations with the parties concerned to find solutions to the current political crisis met with Yemeni President Lieutenant General 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih at midday the day before yesterday. The committee was seeking to ascertain 'Ali Salih's opinion and proposals to solve the crisis. But committee sources have emphasized that the Yemeni president refused to offer any proposals or views. He said that the House of Representatives must shoulder its national and constitutional responsibility and not seek proposals and solutions from others as long as it can take specific measures in its capacity as the legislative authority and on the grounds that all its members won citizens' confidence and represent all the people in the House.

The sources added that 'Ali Salih cut off the dialogue with the parliamentary committee, headed by House of representative Speaker Shaykh 'Abdallah Bin-Husayn al-Ahmar, and left the meeting after nearing what had been proposed to him.

The parliamentary meeting yesterday met with 'Ali Salim al-Bid, deputy chairman of the Presidential Council and secretary general of the Yemeni Socialist Party [YSP], who has been secluding himself in Aden since 19 August. A protracted dialogue took place

between members of the committee and the vice president, who had explained his position in an 18-point message which was delivered to Sanaa.

The YSP Political Bureau held a meeting in Aden yesterday under al-Bid in which it discussed current developments and the YSP's position on the political crisis in the country and the reply to a memorandum the general People's Congress had sent to the YSP Political Bureau, requesting a clear and specific position on al-Bid's seclusion and recent speeches. A statement on this meeting is expected to be issued in the evening today.

Meanwhile, the court of first instance in Hadhramaut Governorate has issued its verdict in the al-Jihad organization's case. The official newspaper AL-THAWRAH has said that last Saturday the court sentenced Salih 'Umar al-Jarw and Shyaban Musa'id Balharf to execution by firing squad. It sentenced Hasan Salih Bin-Bashar, Salih Sa'id Masjidi, and Muhammad 'Ubayd Husaynun to 10-year imprisonment and Sabri 'Umar Bin-Dahbah and Ramadan Mursil Bin-Sanad to five-year imprisonment. The court acquitted Yasir Muhammad al-Jarw, 'Adil Salih Bahshwan, and Salih Salim 'Abulan.

Basindwah Comments on Relations With Gulf States

LD0710160093 London AL-HAWADITH in Arabic 8 Oct 93 p 26

[Interview with Yemeni Foreign Minister Muhammad Salim Basindwah by Usamah 'Ajjaj in Cairo; date not given]

[Excerpts] ['Ajjaj] It seems that the natural start for an interview with the man in charge of Yemeni diplomacy is Yemen's efforts to surmount the effects of the Gulf crisis. What stage has been reached in Sanaa's attempt to improve its relations with the Gulf states, especially Kuwait?

[Basindwah] I can say that we have considerably surmounted most of the Gulf war's effects. We need more years to surmount the other effects, as it is difficult to rectify damages on the scale of the damages our country has suffered entirely as a result of the Gulf war over three years. The important thing is that our people have begun to adapt themselves to coexist with the difficult conditions created by this tragic war. As for the scale of improvement in Yemen's relations with its fraternal Gulf states, I can confirm to you that in general, relations have undergone a major improvement, to the extent that one can say they are almost normal. And we hope that this improvement will extend to relations with the fraternal State of Kuwait. That will inevitably happen, but it is a matter of time, because we cannot dispense with one another. It is a matter of time, as we have done all we should do. [passage omitted]

['Ajjaj] We note that the border talks between Yemen and Saudi Arabia are proceeding slowly. Is that attributable to the negative effects of the Gulf crisis?

[Basindwah] We are interested in our relations with the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and harbor all amity, love, and appreciation toward its king, the custodian of the two holy mosques, and its other leaders and people by virtue of the ties of brotherhood, dialogue, kinship, and cooperation that bind us. We cannot dispense with them, nor can they dispense with us. Contacts between us are continuing. I was the last to visit the Kingdom, and it was an honor for me to meet with King Fahd. I also met with Prince Sultan Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz—second deputy prime minister, defense and aviation minister, and inspector general. I returned from the visit with good impressions which prompt me to be optimistic that relations between Yemen and Saudi Arabia will soon, God willing, become better than ever before. And indeed a big improvement has occurred in them.

With regarded to the border issue, we aspire to resolve it, just as the border issue has been resolved with the Sultanate of Oman. The joint committee of technical experts has held five rounds of talks so far, the most recent of which was the round held in Ta'izz in the second half of August. It has been decided to hold the next round in the Saudi capital, Riyadh, on 9 October.

['Ajjaj] What about relations with Iraq?

[Basindwah] Relations with Iraq are normal.

['Ajjaj] Do you not believe the time has come for relations with Egypt to return to their previous status? When will the joint higher committee between the two countries be held?

[Basindwah] Nothing has blemished Yemen's relations with Egypt for us to seek to purify them. What is between the two fraternal countries is too strong to be spoiled by time. Because their ties are stamped by the blood which mingled on Yemen's pure soil. Nevertheless, I agree with you that it is necessary constantly to reactivate contacts and cooperation. With regard to the joint higher Yemeni-Egyptian committee, it is likely to hold its next meeting in Cairo in November.

['Ajjaj] What truth is there in reports that Yemen is trying to bring Hamas and the PLO together to avert a split in Palestinian ranks after the Gaza-Jericho agreement?

[Basindwah] Yemen will not turn away from exerting every effort possible to reconcile the Palestinian brothers and to prevent the disagreement between supporters and opponents of the agreement from developing to the point of taking up arms against one another. What is required is for opposition to be used as a means of strengthening the Palestinian negotiator's position in the face of Israel. Our Palestinian brothers must realize that their adversary is still lying in wait for them and that their infighting is what the Israelis want. If it happens, it will be the peak of the tragedy and the end for all—both supporters and oppositionists.

['Ajjaj] And what is Yemen's position on the agreement?

[Basindwah] As we Arabs recognized the PLO as the Palestinian people's sole legitimate representative in accordance with the resolution adopted by the Arab summit held in Morocco in 1974, we cannot oppose what the PLO accepts, whatever our comments or reservations. Yemen is a supportive state. And it is not its policy at all to impose its opinion or position on anyone. Yemen does not oppose what the Palestinians decide, because it is their issue and they are the people concerned. [passage omitted]

['Ajjaj] There are reports from time to time that Yemen pays no attention to some quarters' evacuation of numbers of Yemeni Jews. What truth is there in this?

[Basindwah] Under the democratic and pluralist system prevailing in our country, and in accordance with the Constitution and the laws in force, every citizen—regardless of his religion—has the right to travel outside the homeland on holiday, for medical treatment, or for any other purpose. Thus we cannot prevent any Jewish citizen from traveling to any country, except Israel. So a number of Jewish citizens left the country for some Western states in dribs and drabs, and often individually. From there they headed for Israel. Of course, we could not force the countries to which they traveled from Yemen to prevent them from going to Israel. [passage omitted]

National Alliance Opposition Warns of Instability

PM0510112893 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 2 Oct 93 p 4

['Abd-al-Rahman al-Haydari report: "Yemeni 'National Alliance' Warns About 'State Of Chaos And Instability'"]

[Text] Sanaa—The opposition Democratic National Alliance Preparatory Committee has issued a statement, announcing that it "discussed a number of national issues and concerns, and the political crisis the country is currently experiencing which was brought about by the ruling coalition and which has adversely affected our public life."

The statement pointed out that "these issues are represented in the ruling coalition's inability to implement what it promised to do in its electoral programs on the basis of which it won the masses' confidence, and in the emergence of contradictions and aspects of disagreements within the ruling coalition. These were revealed outside the legitimate frameworks in a manner which has led to a state of instability among the masses. This is in addition to the coalition parties' preoccupation with their own problems; fabrication of crises; failure to focus on tackling the issue of the suffering of the homeland and citizens, their problems, and security and stability requirements, as well as solving the economic problem and using the political system of its various organs to resolve these crises; the creation of an atmosphere of splits in society; and resorting to the phenomenon of polarizing influential popular elements and political figures in the whirlpool of this fabricated conflict."

In its statement the opposition committee stressed the need to "safeguard national achievements, first and foremost unity and democracy; to refer only to constitutional institutions to settle differences among the parties of the ruling coalition; to respect the documents signed among them; to involve the national partisan forces outside the ruling coalition and to inform them of any disagreements, on the grounds that national issues concern all national parties; and not to resort to revealing aspects of disagreements to public opinion before they are discussed in the constitutional institutions, so as to avoid creating a state of reactions and unrest in public opinion circles; and to apply wisdom and dialogue in tackling our domestic issues so as to spare the country a state of instability that leads to undermining economic conditions and disrupting national development plans."

The statement added that "provoking public opinion and the public's feelings leads to further suffering for our people due to the lack of many essential requirements—which is bound to lead to a state of chaos and instability."

Talks With UN Special Commission, IAEA Conclude

List of Nuclear, CW Sources Promised

NC0710181193 Paris AFP in English 1755 GMT 7 Oct 93

[Text] Baghdad, Oct 7 (AFP)—Iraq has promised to give the United Nations a complete list of its suppliers of nuclear and chemical weapons technology, the U.N. disarmament chief said here Thursday [7 October].

The head of the U.N. Special Commission (UNSCOM) to disarm Iraq, Rolf Ekeus, said he expected to receive the list later Thursday or Friday, when he is due to leave Iraq.

List Handed Over to UN Team

NC0810104793 Paris AFP in English 1038 GMT 8 Oct 93

[Text] Baghdad, Oct 8 (AFP)—Iraq has handed the United Nations a list of its suppliers of nuclear and chemical weapons technology, the U.N. disarmament chief said Friday [8 October].

Rolf Ekeus, head of the U.N. Special Commission on Iraq, said the commission had "received the answers" to our questions on the foreign suppliers, but added he did not know if the list was complete.

Talks End; Suppliers Issue 'Settled'

JN0810105893 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1020 GMT 8 Oct 93

[Text] Baghdad, 8 Oct (INA)—The week-long talks between Iraq, the UN Special Commission, and the International Atomic Energy Agency [IAEA] ended here today.

The minutes of talks were signed at 1230 [0930 GMT] today, Friday, 8 October. The minutes were signed for Iraq by Lieutenant General 'Amir Muhammad Rashid, director of the Military Industrialization Organization, Ambassador Rolf Ekeus for the UN Special Commission, and Professor Zifferero for the IAEA.

INA has learned that the minutes stipulate that the Special Commission and the IAEA stress that major and substantial progress has been achieved toward closing the files of Resolution 687 concerning nuclear, missile, biological, and chemical weapons. The minutes also include Iraq's full and clear position regarding the UN Security Council's fulfillment of its commitments toward Iraq to lift the blockade.

INA also learned that the issue of suppliers was settled after the Special Commission and the IAEA accepted Iraq's request to sign a letter addressed to the foreign minister in which they pledge they will only use the information on suppliers for technical purposes and for the objectives of Resolution 687. They will also maintain confidentiality of the records.

Rolf Ekeus and Professor Zifferero signed a letter to this effect.

INA also learned that a decision was made to hold another meeting between the two parties in mid November in New York.

Al-Sahhaf Confers With UN's Butrus-Ghali

JN0610130393 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1130 GMT 6 Oct 93

[Text] Foreign Minister Muhammad Sa'id al-Sahhaf met in New York last night with UN Secretary General Dr. Butrus-Ghali. An INA correspondent in New York said the meeting was attended on the Iraqi side by Ambassador Nizar Hamdun, Iraq's permanent representative at the United Nations, and 'Adnan Malik Nusayyif, deputy permanent representative at the United Nations. For the United Nations, the meeting was attended by Marrack Goulding and Jan Eliasson, under secretaries general of the United Nations, and Ambassador (Kray Khan), senior political adviser to the UN secretary general.

Meets Indonesian, Ugandan Ministers

JN0710105293 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0905 GMT 7 Oct 93

[Text] New York (the United Nations), 7 Oct (INA)—Foreign Minister Muhammad Sa'id al-Sahhaf yesterday met with the foreign ministers of Uganda, Kenya, and Indonesia at the UN headquarters.

The foreign minister discussed with Indonesian Foreign Minister Ali Alatas bilateral ties, particularly in the economic and trade fields, and the exchange of visits between the two countries.

The Iraqi and Indonesian ministers also discussed the march of the Nonaligned Movement, currently chaired by Indonesia, and means to strengthen its international role.

The Iraqi foreign minister met separately with Ugandan Foreign Minister Paul Kawanga Ssemogerere and Kenyan Foreign Minister Stephen Kalonzo Musyoka. Muhammad Sa'id al-Sahhaf explained to the Ugandan and Kenyan ministers Iraq's clear position on cooperation with the United Nations and its fulfillment of its obligations. He also stressed the need for the UN Security Council to fulfill its obligations to lift the blockade as stipulated by Resolution 687.

Meets Cape Verde, Indian Counterparts

JN0510112593 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0715 GMT 5 Oct 93

[Text] New York/United Nations, 5 Oct (INA)—Foreign Minister Muhammad Sa'id al-Sahhaf met in New York yesterday with several foreign ministers taking part in the 48th session of the UN General Assembly.

An INA correspondent in New York said al-Sahhaf met yesterday with Cape Verde Minister of Foreign Affairs Manuel Chantre. Al-Sahhaf explained to him Iraq's fulfillment of its obligations under Security Council resolutions. He also told him that Third World nations

who are Security Council members should seek to take positive steps toward Iraq and fulfill the Security Council's obligations under Resolution 687.

The foreign minister also met here yesterday with Salman Khurshid, Indian minister of state for external affairs. They discussed bilateral cooperation and issues on the UN General Assembly agenda.

Muhammad Sa'id al-Sahhaf also met with Jan Eliasson, deputy secretary general of the United Nations. They discussed coordinating and organizing UN humanitarian activities.

Radio: Cooperation, Talks Put UNSC 'To Test'

JN0310210893 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1918 GMT 3 Oct 93

[Commentary by Raysan Matar; from the "Spotlight on the News" program]

[Text] Brother listeners: Political commentators and observers are of the consensus that the blockade imposed on Iraq has lost all justification. It has brought much material damage to most of the countries who maintained economic relations with Iraq. These countries include the big powers who contributed arms and cash to the 30-state aggression on Iraq. Many nations and prominent political intellectuals and strategists know the full reality. They raise their voices, calling for the lifting of the blockade on Iraq because it conflicts with heavenly values and international law.

But the United States and its allies use political and economic pressure, intimidation and temptation to maintain the blockade for these political reasons: their total failure to achieve their goals by military aggression, and the embarrassment their leaders feel before their peoples, who call them liars. They use the United Nations and the Security Council to issue unjust resolutions against Iraq.

Whenever the issue of lifting the blockade on Iraq is discussed, the United States, Britain, and France fabricate certain events, in conjunction with a large-scale media campaign of lies, to deceive states and peoples into thinking Iraq does not abide by Security Council resolutions. They do this to create an excuse to continue the blockade. But this game no longer deceives anyone. Iraq has cooperated with all the commissions that have come to Iraq and conducted large-scale search campaigns. Iraq showed self-restraint about the provocations of some commission officials and gave all the facts to the United Nations.

This enlightened behavior refutes all the lies of the United States and its allies. It made the French foreign minister change his position and say that when the Security Council discusses lifting the blockade on Iraq, it should consider the positive things Iraq offered to the UN commissions and should view them as part of Iraq's compliance with Security Council resolutions.

If we review the opinions of pro-Western newspapers that antagonized Iraq, we will learn they were forced to change their previous positions as a result of popular pressure. They were forced to call for the lifting of the blockade because the damage it has caused has become so clear in Europe, the United States, Russia, and many other states.

So, the visit to Iraq by the Special Commission entrusted with following up Resolution 687, under the chairmanship of Rolf Ekeus, attracts Western media interest. Deputy Prime Minister Tariq 'Aziz stressed the importance of the official talks between Iraq and the Special Commission because they will close the banned weapons file. Rolf Ekeus said the talks dealt with all issues and that we will soon finish them.

It is noteworthy that closing the banned weapons file means the Security Council should lift the blockade on Iraq in accordance with Paragraph 22 of Resolution 687. Political observers believe these important talks between Iraq and the Special Commission will put the Security Council and its credibility and justice, as stipulated in the UN Charter, to the test.

Explosion, 'Udday Assassination Bid Reported

JN0710184493 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1720 GMT 7 Oct 93

[Text] Tehran, 7 Oct (SANA)—Iraqi opposition sources here have reported that over 3,000 Iraqi civilians were killed and others were injured when two containers of toxic gas exploded at the al-Bid'ah camp for Popular Army training in al-Nasiriyah, southern Iraq.

The sources added that whole families died in their homes before the regime's men covered the two containers with mud.

The opposition sources said that the Iraqi regime tried to conceal the incident by propagating rumors about the explosion of home liquid gas cylinders. Meanwhile, the bodies of those killed and the injured were moved to an unknown place.

In another development, Iraqi opposition sources said that 'Udayy, the eldest son of the regime's head, was the target of an assassination attempt in mid-August. In that attempt, 'Udayy's bodyguards exchanged fire with unidentified assailants.

Rabin 'Extremely Satisfied' With Cairo Talks

TA0810100093 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0505 GMT 8 Oct 93

[Report by Hayim Hecht]

[Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin, who held talks with several ministers over the holiday, reiterated that he is extremely satisfied with the results of his talks in Cairo. Rabin said that things are moving and that he attained all the objectives he desired. Indeed, there are now timetables, committees, locations for meetings, and even an agreed-upon agenda.

Prime Minister Rabin will depart for an official visit to China early Sunday morning [10 October]. For this reason Rabin called a cabinet meeting today, during which he will brief the ministers on the details of his meetings in Cairo. It is possible that today Rabin will name the officials who will head the four committees decided upon with the Palestinians.

Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres is likely to head the liaison committee, the most important committee which will meet in Cairo next week. His Palestinian counterpart will be Abu-Mazin [Mahmud 'Abbas], 'Arafat's political adviser. At the same time Peres and Rabin, who discussed this issue by telephone, decided to delay the official announcement regarding Peres' appointment in order not to be embarrassed by a Palestinian surprise in the makeup of the committee.

The committee for consolidating the Gaza-Jericho First plan will be convened in Tabah, and will be headed by a major general, apparently 'Uzi Dayan. The PLO will appoint Colonel Nasr Yusuf, who was one of Force 17 commanders, to head this committee.

The economic committee will be subordinated to the liaison committee. It has still not been decided when to convene this committee. The PLO will appoint Abu-al-'Ala' [Ahmad Quray'] to head this committee. Israel will be represented by an economic minister. Some ministers have already declared themselves candidates for this position.

The delegation to the Washington talks is formally headed by Elyaqim Rubinstein. It is clear, however, that he will not head the talks with the Palestinians. The Israeli delegation will apparently be divided up, with Rubinstein heading the talks with Jordan. Candidates for heading the talks with the Palestinians are Knesset Member [MK] Efrayim Sne, Major General Dani Rothschild, and Foreign Ministry official Eytan Bentzur.

After the meeting with Rabin in Cairo, the Palestinians tried to create the impression that a fifth committee was also established, a committee for dealing with Jerusalem. Rabin reacted angrily, saying this was utter nonsense and that the issue of Jerusalem was not even raised in the talks. We were told by the prime minister's bureau that there is not and will not be any committee or team dealing with Jerusalem. It was only agreed in Cairo that Faysal al-Husayni, in a private meeting with an Israeli official—perhaps Police Minister Moshe Shahal—will discuss a series of easing measures for the inhabitants of the territories who want to enter East Jerusalem. The closure on East Jerusalem will continue. Prime Minister Rabin and President Mubarak spoke about the Syrian issue. Rabin will tell the ministers that no dramatic explosion has occurred in the process with Syria. The U.S. Administration and Egypt will continue to work along diplomatic channels to soften President al-Asad.

Peres To Head Liaison Committee

TA0810135393 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1300 GMT 8 Oct 93

[Text] The special cabinet session has ended a short while ago at the Defense Ministry in Tel Aviv. In the session, Rabin briefed the ministers about the agreements made in Cairo two days ago in his discussions with Yasir 'Arafat and President Mubarak. Our correspondent Hayim Hecht reports that Prime Minister Rabin told the ministers that Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres will head the liaison committee to the negotiations with the Palestinians. The committee on Gaza and Jericho will be headed by one of three major generals, Shahaq, Dayan, or Vilna'i. The prime minister decided not to officially announce the composition of the Israeli delegations today, before the PLO announces the composition of its delegations early next week.

The reports by the prime minister and security officials indicated that the Israeli teams, including those of all the defense branches, are set and ready to begin negotiations. It seems, however, that the Palestinian side is not organized, and unrest in some of its institutions has been observed. That is why it is not clear at this stage how efficient the initial discussions of the committees will be.

At this time, the prime minister and the foreign minister are meeting in private. Yitzhaq Rabin is leaving on a state visit to the PRC on 10 October, and Shim'on Peres will be acting prime minister.

[Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew at 1300 carries a live report from the Defense Ministry by Netan'el Semrik, who adds: "The cabinet was asked to make no decisions today." The report adds that the ministers were briefed by the foreign minister and the chief of staff, "but no details were discussed."]

Nabulus Prisoner Dies; al-Husayni Addresses Rally

TA0710122093 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1200 GMT 7 Oct 93

[Text] Israelis and Palestinians are currently staging a rally in Nabulus demanding the release of all imprisoned Palestinians. Our correspondent Aviv Bushinsky reports that the Army allowed 120 demonstrators to march toward the city prison. Faysal al-Husayni, who addressed the rally, said that if Rabin wants to make peace with the Palestinians, he should release all of the detainees.

A security detainee died while jogging this morning in the Nabulus prison. Our police affairs correspondent Moshe Nussbaum was told that Ahmad 'Adil Hasan Isma'il collapsed while jogging in the prison courtyard, and that the physicians' efforts to resuscitate him failed. The Prisons Authority launched an investigation of the circumstances of the death.

General Almog Named IDF Gaza Troops Commander

TA0810112993 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1100 GMT 8 Oct 93

[Text] Brigadier General Giyora Island was this morning appointed chief of paratroops and infantry. He is replacing Brig. Gen. Doron Almog, who has been appointed commander of the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] troops in the Gaza Strip.

Rafah Border Crossing To Operate 24 Hours a Day

TA0710182593 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1800 GMT 7 Oct 93

[Text] Beginning Sunday [10 October], the Rafah crossing point between Gaza and Egypt will operate 24 hours a day. The step is being taken at the request of Egyptian President Husni Mubarak. The Egyptian leader asked Prime Minister Rabin to do so at their meeting yesterday in Cairo.

An Israeli Transport Ministry spokesman said that Mubarak promised, for his part, to encourage Egyptian tourism to Israel.

Over recent years, the Rafah crossing has been operated only 12 hours a day. The directive for a full-day service has already been handed down by Transport Minister Yisra'el Qeysar to the Ports Authority.

The authorities are also gearing up to prepare the Tabah crossing point in advance of the upcoming negotiations between the Israeli and Palestinian committees agreed upon in yesterday's Cairo talks that are to begin at the Tabah Hilton next week.

Returned Deportees Decry Suppression of Rights

TA0710184193 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1800 GMT 7 Oct 93

[Text] Several deportees, who were allowed to return about a month ago, today held a news conference in Nabulus at which they accused Israel of preventing them from voicing their views. The speakers said that just as a part of the Israeli people are against the agreement, a large part of the Palestinian people are also opposed to it because it runs counter to Islam.

They noted, however, that they were not calling for the use of force against agreement-supporting Palestinians.

Junblatt Says U.S. Stance on Lebanon Unchanged

NC0810064993 Shanayh Voice of the Mountain in Arabic 0530 GMT 8 Oct 93

[Text] Refugee Affairs Minister Walid Junblatt has said the United States has not changed its position on Lebanon. It wants to establish a security agreement between Lebanon and Israel similar to the 17 May 1982 Accord. The United States is not interested in the implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 425, so it is arming the Lebanese Army to always serves as an internal security force.

Junblatt added: We support an Israeli withdrawal and the implementation of Resolution 425, but we oppose the Army's becoming a tool of suppression at home, whether against Hizballah or other groups. I am afraid of a kind of military dictatorship again taking hold in Lebanon.

In an interview with the newspaper AL-HAYAH, Junblatt said the political game in Lebanon is ludicrous. He said 'Arafat is the mayor of Jericho and we want him to become the head of the state of Palestine with its capital Jerusalem. We want him to have all the water and land resources in the West Bank and to give the Palestinian people in Gaza, West Bank, and the Palestinian camps a Palestinian identity.

Hizballah Rejects Jazzin Withdrawal Offer

NC0710102493 Ba'labakk Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic 0630 GMT 7 Oct 93

[Text] Al-Hajj Husayn al-Khalil, head of the Hizballah Political Bureau, has stated that Israel's offer to withdraw from Jazzin first has been rejected in principle. This is because what is required is an unconditional withdrawal from all Lebanese territory.

Al-Khalil said that Lebanese officials and negotiators must face the Zionist occupation on political, military, and others levels to expel this occupation from Lebanese territory. He added that the enemy's withdrawal from any area through negotiations means that the enemy wants to achieve gains at the expense of the Lebanese people, land, and resources. Therefore, al-Khalil said: We reject any process of this kind. We stick to our principled stand. Any signature given by the rulers, whoever they may be, is not binding on us.

Al-Khalil stressed that even after the Israeli occupation of Lebanon ends, Israel will remain our enemy. We will continue to support the Palestinian people's struggle. The passage of time cannot change historical facts and the land of Palestine will not become Jewish. He affirmed that Israel, which is an alien to this region, cannot become a part of it.

He explained that the Gaza-Jericho agreement was concluded between some Palestinian individuals and Israel and that it has been rejected by the Palestinian people and is a subject of controversy even within the PLO. He said that there are 4 million Palestinians abroad who reject this agreement. At home there is a Palestinian people who are fighting and struggling. Therefore, we oppose this agreement and stand on the side of the Palestinian people.

Al-Khalil said: We in Lebanon are directly concerned with fighting the Israeli occupation on our land. We will continue the resistance operations. He expressed doubt that the agreement and treaties that are signed will succeed, saying that there is nothing to indicate that this agreement can become reality.

Al-Hirawi Praises Army's Unity, Discipline

NC0710131493 Shanayh Voice of the Mountain in Arabic 1000 GMT 7 Oct 93

[Text] President Ilyas al-Hirawi has praised the Lebanese Army for its unity and discipline and for implementing the orders of the political authority to maintain security.

Speaking at a meeting with a delegation of officers from the Lebanese Army's Command and Staff College, he affirmed that the Army will play a major role after Israel's withdrawal from southern Lebanon.

Lebanese Army Buildup in Western al-Biqa' Reported

NC0710154893 (Clandestine) Voice of the South in Arabic to Lebanon 1430 GMT 7 Oct 93

[Text] Our correspondent has cited reports by travelers from al-Biqa' that the Lebanese Army has dispatched new forces to western al-Biqa', bolstered by commando units and heavy armaments. This report has not been confirmed by other sources.

Al-Shar' Meeting With Clinton Reported

JN0710215493 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 2115 GMT 7 Oct 93

[Text] Washington—U.S. President Bill Clinton received Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' at the White House this afternoon. The meeting was attended by U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher; Sandy Berger, assistant national security adviser; Martin Indyk, White House adviser for Middle East affairs; and Walid al-Mu'allim, Syrian ambassador in Washington.

Al-Shar' relayed to President Clinton a message from His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad on recent developments in the peace process and Syria's commitment to continue with the bilateral talks to achieve just and comprehensive peace in the region on the basis of the terms of reference agreed upon for the Madrid conference and in implementation of Resolutions 242 and 338, as well as the principle of trading land for peace.

For his part, President Clinton reaffirmed the U.S. commitment to continue its efforts to advance the peace process. He added that his country, he himself, and his secretary of state are committed to working to achieve a just and comprehensive peace in the Middle East. He noted that it is impossible to achieve the objective of a just and comprehensive peace without progress on the Syrian and Lebanese tracks.

U.S. President Bill Clinton said he will continue to work and cooperate closely with His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad to achieve this objective. The U.S. president commended the cooperation and dialogue existing between Syria and the United States to achieve peace and stability in the region. He reiterated his administration's determination to intensify bilateral contacts on all levels.

Rabin Call for 'Secret Negotiations' Rejected

JN0710145793 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1230 GMT 7 Oct 93

[Station commentary]

[Text] Gentlemen: Israel has flooded the peace arena with words. It seems this is the only thing it has left. Not a single day passes without hearing statements by Israeli Prime Minister Rabin and his Foreign Minister Peres about the conditions and requirements for peace. The identity of views between Rabin and Peres, in the wake of the Gaza-Jericho accord, has untied the tongue of Peres, whetting his appetite for further talk about the way he envisions peace, and making up for the months when Rabin tied the tongue of his foreign minister.

We are not here in the business of replying to what Rabin and Peres say. However, we cannot let what they say spoil the atmosphere or cast dark shadows over the real concept of a just, comprehensive peace sought by the Arabs and the international community.

Israel, which is always willing to bypass real peace and escape, in any way, from the Madrid process, has not stopped propagating a peace that only meets its conditions—a peace in which the Arabs will give Israel carte blanche, leaving it up to Israel if it wants to give the Arabs anything in return in the future. Needless to say, such peace is unworthy of the name and would not bring security, stability, and reassurance to the region. It will only turn the region into a hotbed of tension and turmoil.

It is now clear that after the Gaza-Jericho agreement circus, Israel has found encouragement. What encouraged it even more is that some international quarters have responded to its demands and dictates, which practically aim at weaseling out of the peace process launched in Madrid.

It is common knowledge that Israel, which remained reluctant to the last moment to join the Madrid peace process, has been working to destroy this formula. All Israel's past and current efforts are aimed at achieving this purpose, including yesterday's statement by Rabin in which he called for secret negotiations between Syria and Israel.

Israel knows that Syria rejects behind-the-scenes negotiations, since Syria has nothing to say secretly that contradicts its public pronouncements. Israel seeks, however, to dilute any significance behind holding future bilateral sessions of negotiations in Washington by showing readiness, in fact eagerness, for a new round without preceding it with suitable groundwork to achieve progress.

Such Israeli methods are understandable. This has been Israel's style over 11 rounds in which opportunities and efforts were wasted only because Israel does not want the talks based on the Madrid process to succeed. Syria, on the other hand, is concerned about peace and will continue to resist Israel's dictates about its conditions for peace and will refuse, as it refused in the past, to hold any secret negotiations outside the framework and substance defined by the Madrid process.

Out of its concern for peace, Syria will continue to stress that any new round of negotiations should be preceded by solid preparations that help give the peace process a push forward. Syria will not accept further wasting of time through more futile rounds.

Out of Syria's confidence in the seriousness of the American sponsor and its eagerness to achieve peace, Syria reaffirms its response to the efforts made by this sponsor, in light of its full partner role to advance the peace process. Syria thinks that for these efforts to succeed, they must take into consideration the higher interest of peace, as defined by the resolutions of international legitimacy to which the sponsors of the peace process committed themselves, and not the interest of one party without the other.

Afghanistan

• Mojahedin Fight To Control Kabul-Herat Road

94P50004A London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 29 Sep 93 p 4

[Text] Kabul, London—Violent fighting has broken out between two groups of Afghan mojahedin, in a struggle to control an important road linking Kabul with Herat and Iran. A spokesman for the Hezb-e Ettehad said that the Hezb-e Wahdat-e Eslami has been using the road to bring large amounts of arms from Iran.

The two parties signed a ceasefire agreement on 30 August after a month of fighting, and they agreed to support the temporary government formed by Golboddin Hekmatyar, leader of the Hezb-e Eslami.

However, Hezb-e Ettehad sources say now that the Hezb-e Wahdat used the ceasefire period as a cover to smuggle the arms, among which are heavy artillery pieces, to the Hazarajat region and Kabul. A spokesman for the Hezb-e Wahdat denied these charges and in turn charged the Hezb-e Ettehad with wanting to expand the area of Kabul that it controls.

The Hezb-e Wahdat spokesman said, "The Hezb-e Ettehad controls a small part of the capital" and added, "It cannot take territory from the Ahmad Shah Mas'ud group or the Uzbeks, so it is trying to take over what is ours."

Iran has been supporting the goverenmet that Hekmatyar formed because it fears that his opponents, especially Mas'ud and Uzbek leader 'Abdol Rashid Dostam, are siding with the West.

Iranian Government sources admit that large numbers of trucks have been directed toward the areas which the Hezb-e Wahdat control in Kabul and central Afghanistan, but they claim that they carry relief supplies and humanitarian aid only.

It is worth noting that Iranian trucks that are carrying aid to the Hezb-e Wahdat cross the border to Afghanistan twice a week are under the protection of armed mojahedin, and that, on not less than two occasions, competing mojahedin groups tried to attact the truck convoys, leading to violent clashes.

Iran has asserted its concern with what is going on in Afghanistan by conducting military maneuvers in the eastern Khorasan region near the Afghanistan border, so that it will have the capability to intervene "in the event of a war" that occurs at any point along the 1,600-km border.

Iranian authorities maintain that there are at least some Afghan mojahedin groups that operate in concert with newly armed and organized activities of these gangs, which include repeated attacks on Iranian police and border posts, and this has led to rumors of unrest in the eastern Iranian regions. Analysts in Tehran say that part of the weapons sent to the Hezb-e Wahdat and other Afghan groups friendly to Iran were perhaps for use against the drug smuggling gangs.

'At Least 57' Civilians Caught in Artillery Crossfire

BK0610154993 Hong Kong AFP in English 1046 GMT 6 Oct 93

[Text] Kabul, Oct 6 (AFP)—At least 57 civilians were caught in crossfire late Tuesday [5 October] in one of the most intense recent exchanges of artillery fire between opposing mojahedin factions in the southwest of Kabul, medical sources said.

Admittances till noon Wednesday at the former Red Cross hospital in Karte Se district of south Kabul were 47 shrapnel victims, of which three died, hospital staff reported.

Further west at the Dasht-i-Barchi clinic 5 more patients, all from one family, were treated for wounds caused by mortar-bomb fragments, and an additional five civilians died as the result of direct hits on their place of work or residence, said Dr Shah Hussein Husseini.

Husseini added that two missiles crashed into his clinic last night, but fortunately, there were no casualties.

Two men died in a tailor shop hit by a 122mm rocket which turned the entire mud-brick building into a pile of rubble and twisted the peddle-operated sewing machine into scrap metal.

Supreme Court on Judicial Appointments, Procedures

LD0610082793 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 5 Oct 93

[Announcement by the Supreme Court of the Islamic State of Afghanistan; place and date not given—read by announcer]

[Text] To prevent passing judgement without authority and to rid the creature of Allah of wastful expenses and of trouble and finally, to prevent the wasting of time of the higher courts and especially of the departments of the Supreme Court, the following points are being announced:

1. In line with Hanafi fiqh [Hanafi school of Islamic jurisprudence] and the existing laws of the country, appointments of judges and acceptance of people to the judiciary is among the special prerogatives of the president of the Islamic State of Afghanistan. Therefore, no one can obtain letters of appointment from unauthorized sources and from authorities lacking authority, and without the approval of the Supreme Court, and take up the grand duty of judgement and thereby cause trouble to the people and the higher courts by those kind of [words indistinct]

2. It seems that some courts write their judgements on unprinted forms. This act is against the tradition of court and the regulation of the writing of documents, and provides opportunities for forgery and imposters. Therefore, it is stressed that courts must refrain from writing their judgement in this way. If there are no printed documents and judgement forms in the court, related sources of the Supreme Court will be contacted to supply them.

3. A court injunction has been envisaged where the contents of a case are irrelevant but, as seen, some courts pass judgment on the actual cases in the form of court injunctions for the purpose of shari'a (implementation). Because this act eliminates or limits the possibility of the appearance of the prosecutors and defenders [words indistinct] it is advised that such judgements will be refrained from, and they [courts] should settle disputes, as in the past, in traditional ways in line with the principles of courts of shari'ah and law.

4. Members of the armed forces organizations are strongly asked to prevent armed people from intervening and disrupting the ensuring of justice and from intervening in the work of courts. They must prevent those people from influencing the courts and exerting force, so as to effectively help preserve the independence of the judiciary and the [words indistinct] of the legitimate rights of the people.

5. The recommendation of the seminar of the heads of courts in 1350 [beginning 21 March 1972] which says that holders of a legal document will be considered in possession [of property] is against Hanafi fiqh, and in most cases it stands in special situations against the visible possession [mashhud zolyad]. Therefore courts are advised when making decisions on the issue of possession [zolyad] they should act on Article 94 of the law of courts procedure, published in 1337 [1958], which is the translation of an edict of Hanafi fiqh.

Rabbani Meets With Pakistani Ambassador

LD0610185893 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 6 Oct 93

[Text] The press office of the presidency reported to us that esteemed Professor Borhanoddin Rabbani, president of the Islamic State of Afghanistan, received this morning in Golkhana Palace Mr. Amir Osman, ambassador and representative extraordinary of Pakistan [name and title as received]. In the meeting talks were conducted on the situation in Afghanistan and the Islamic Republic of Pakistan and the betterment of relations between the two countries.

Iran

Velayati Meets Counterparts at UN Sidelines

LD0210134993 Tehran IRNA in English 1010 GMT 2 Oct 93

[Text] United Nations, New York, Oct. 2, IRNA—Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati who is currently here, separately met his counterparts on the sidelines of the ongoing 48th meeting of the U.N. General Assembly, Friday.

In a meeting with Iraqi Foreign Minister Sa'id al-Sahhaf, the two sides discussed existing problems facing the two countries.

Al-Sahhaf invited Iranian Foreign Ministry officials to visit Baghdad for further negotiations which was accepted by Velayati who said his deputy for international affairs Mohammad Javad Zarif would visit Iraq in October.

In another meeting with Italian Foreign Minister, Velayati reiterated Iran's stand vis-a-vis the [words indistinct] Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) and the Zionist regime and said it was rejected since it ignored the rights of the Palestinian nation.

Velayati also met and held talks with Kazakh Foreign Minister Tuleutay Suleymenov who touched on the expanding ties between the two countries and said the impending visit to Almaty of Iran's President Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani would help further promotion of mutual ties.

Issues of mutual interest, consolidation of Tehran-Almaty ties and expansion of cooperation among littoral states of the Caspian Sea were among other topics discussed by the two sides.

In another meeting with Indonesian Foreign Minister Ali Alatas, the Iranian foreign minister reviewed bilateral cooperation for strengthening of common Islamic values at regional and international organizations.

They also explored avenues for cooperation and exchange of views between Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) and the U.N. for better realization of values of various cultures and religions.

Velayati also conferred with Chinese Foreign Minister Qian Qichen. The two sides expressed satisfaction over the trend of mutual ties and criticized U.S. policies in dealing with international issues including its recent interception of a Chinese ship on baseless grounds.

Both the ministers underlined the fact that human rights patterns of one region should not be applied to other areas.

Brazilian foreign minister and Velayati also discussed matters of mutual interest and issues related to Latin America.

Referring to the strategic situation of Iran in the Persian Gulf and its important role played at regional and international level, the Brazilian minister said his country attached great importance to ties with Iran.

Tehran-Tripoli ties and developments in Muslim world were raised in Velayati's meeting with his Libyan counterpart 'Umar Mustafa al- Muntasir.

Foreign minister of the Netherlands Jan Pieter Kooijmas and Velayati also discussed promotion of Tehran-Amsterdam ties and cooperation in various fields.

U.S. Seen Spreading Israeli Sphere of Influence

LD0210172893 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1055 GMT 2 Oct 93

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] At the conclusion of an American sponsored conference in Washington in support of the Middle East peace process, the American treasury secretary announced that more than 600 million dollars in financial assistance has been collected to help the implementation of the Gaza-Jericho self-rule plan during the next year, and it is planned that various countries will continue these donations in order to reach the sum of 2.5 billion [dollars].

At the same time, American President Bill Clinton stated that Israel and Jordan have formed a joint economic committee for the purpose of starting cooperation in economic development.

In the opinion of political analysts, during the last 50 years and until the recent past, the West had done nothing for the Palestinian problem. What little the West had done was directed toward Palestinian refugees, with the aim of preventing the deepening of social tension among them; tensions that would have undesirable consequences for the Zionist regime.

In view of these issues, one may ask how it is that the West has adopted a new position whereby it considers helping the Palestinians as its political objective, and by staging various conferences sets out to collect money for Palestinians? What is even more interesting is that the donors not only include America and the European Community, but also the blood enemy of the Palestinians, Israel, who has donated 75 million dollars to the implementers of the Gaza-Jericho plan.

Political analysts view the issue of economic assistance to Palestinians through two approaches. The first micro approach views the issue through a limited perspective, and considers this assistance within the framework of victories achieved by 'Arafat over his opponents who are against the Gaza-Jericho self-rule plan. In the opinion of this camp, after a lengthy period of crisis and hunger in the Gaza region which is the bastion of Islamic activists

and the opponents of 'Arafat, without economic prosperity in sight one cannot hope to attract the agreement of the Palestinian people strata with the peace plan. What Rabin and 'Arafat have said about the success of the peace plan being conditional upon international economic assistance and the creation of economic prosperity in the occupied territories, is a clear manifestation of this fact.

The other approach agrees with the first one, but analyzes the collection of financial assistance for reconstruction in the occupied territories within a micro and whole perspective. This approach considers that economic plans for reconstruction are part of the general economic plans for bringing about fundamental changes in the areas's economy and its integration into the world economy. Such a development will constitute the basic guarantee for the survival of the political situation born out of the process of compromise in the Middle East.

In other words, inducing regional countries to base their relations with one another on economic considerations, rather than political ones is aimed at ensuring that the political behavior of these countries will be rendered irreversible.

The insistence of America and Europe on cancellation of UN resolutions which reveal the hostility between the Arabs and Israel—despite the reality that no fundamental change has come about—and also the West insisting on economic cooperation between the Zionist regime and Arab governments, even before their political disputes are completely resolved, reveal the fact that Israel is considered as the main axis and the focal point of all economic plans. They also reveal that the West has reserved for Israel the role of regional leadership in creating a brand new economic set up.

Due to the differences in economic structures, economic cooperation between Israel and Arab countries will only lead to the export of Israeli know-how and commodities, as well the rush of Zionist firms and contractors to Arab countries. Such a situation will spread the domination and influence of the regime occupying al- Quds [Jerusalem] from the occupied territories of Palestine to the entire Middle East region. No doubt the first victim of these types of economic cooperation will be the Palestinians who enjoy no economic infrastructure. In future, this process will in practice put them before a situation wherein they will have no choice but to return to the arms of Israel and accept the scheme of confederation with that regime.

* Kho'iniha Refuses To Speak in Court

93LA0237M London KEYHAN in Persian 16 Sep 93 p 3

[Text] Hojjat ol-Eslam Kho'iniha, managing editor of the newspaper SALAM and leader of the occupiers of the American embassy in Tehran, said last week during the trial at the Special Clerical Court: Although I have prepared a very detailed answer to the charges against me and the newspaper SALAM by Minister of Education Naser Va'ez-Tabasi [as published] and the Friday imam of Ahvaz, due to all the related aspects of the case, the issues raised and the people involved, and in view of the nation's current situation, I think it best not to speak in court and I prefer that the court decide without hearing my remarks.

Kho'iniha said: Since Mr. Jazayeri, Friday imam of Ahvaz, Mr. Naser Tabasi and Dr. Najafi claim that the newspaper SALAM accused, slandered and damaged them and undermined their social reputation, the court must decide if the losses the gentlemen are claiming should be compensated. If they are not happy with the court's decision, it can add something to the maximum amount of the issued verdict and in any case, you must make the gentlemen happy in some way with the court.

After the conclusion of the court session to hear the complaints of the minister of education and training, the son of the province deputy superintendent Qods Rezavi and the Friday imam of Ahvaz, the public relations office of the Special Clerical Court issued a statement from the officials in charge of the newspaper SALAM as follows: Based on this statement, the first session of this court was attended by members of the jury, Hojjat ol-Eslams 'Amid Zanjani, Abu Torabi, Mohammadi-'Eraqi, Seyyed Mohammad Do'a'i, Nezamzadeh and Taqavi. After the indictment was read, the Tehran Special Clerical Court stated the accusations against the defendant, including accusations and slander, making false attributions to confuse public opinion by printing and publishing falsehoods and lies against the Dr. Najafi, minister of education and training, Hojjat ol-Eslam Jazayeri, Friday imam of Ahvaz and Naser Va'ez-Tabasi.

It announced: In view of Article 141 of the Islamic Punishments Law, which declares that making false attributions against real and legal persons in order to confuse public opinion is a crime, and that the one making the attribution deserves punishment, the accusations against the defendant are confirmed, and in accordance with the complaints and the evidence in the case, Articles 6 and 30 of the Press Law, the application of Article 19 of the Law Forming Penal Courts 1 and 2 and the National Supreme Court, Article 141 of the Penalties Law and the religious decree from His Holiness the Imam (peace be upon him) about prohibited earnings, the court was asked to issue a religious and legal verdict. Then they presented each of the points in their bill to the court and after hearing the defendant's statement, the court declared a recess.

During the recess, the members of the jury accepted the complaints, and it declared that it would be satisfied if the managing editor of the newspaper SALAM would apologize, print retractions of the accusations made against them and compensate them in some way for the damage done.

After the court's work was done, in one of the issues of the newspaper SALAM, Musavi Kho'ini'ha published an account of what happened at his trial in the Special Clerical Court. He wrote: After I declined to read the statement I had previously prepared for the reasons given above, I asked the court to rule in whatever way is in the interest of the plaintiffs. However, at first the court did not wish to decide in this way and they said we are not seeking to please the plaintiff.

Rather, we will do our religious duty, even if the plaintiff is not happy.

In answer to the court, I said: In any case, is it the right of the defendant to defend himself, or not? I am foregoing this right because if I defend myself and the defense is effective the court may rule in favor of the defendant, which will certainly make the plaintiffs unhappy. Therefore, at the very outset I say that you should try to rule to please the plaintiffs, no matter how much it is against me.

Kho'iniha continues: After lunch, the brothers from the jury said that before the court convened they were inclined to resolve the case through a compromise, and the plaintiffs were asked to ease their demands. In essence the plaintiffs said: What was printed about us in the newspaper SALAM damaged our social reputation and must be compensated in some way. Then the plaintiffs went into another room, met, prepared a statement, brought it back into court and read it. However, I said I would never accept such a thing. I said that what the gentlemen were saying would never be acceptable. Kho'iniha added: In the presence of Mr. Do'a'i, who is himself the manager of a newspaper, I claim that SALAM is the most courageous newspaper, in the sense that if it writes something against someone, whether it is right or not, if there is an answer given, no matter how much it is and no matter how bitter it may be, we print it and if we have an answer we will print that as well. In short, the gentlemen realized that they were getting nowhere.

Concerning the complaints from Dr. Najafi, minister of education and training, Kho'ini'ha said: A hojjat ol-eslam appeared in court as his lawyer and at that session he made no clear proposal. Some members of the jury said that the issue had become moot, and that in reprinting his demands on the front page of the newspaper he had lost his point. In any case, the minister of education and training's lawyer had no personal recommendation and the others did not take this issue that seriously. Kho'iniha added: Some members of the court insisted that the plaintiffs should drop their complaints right there, but they were not willing to do this. In conclusion, the manager of the newspaper SALAM noted: Related and concurrent issues indicate collusion and reinforce the possibility that there are people and circles searching hard to create a scenario from these issues, or to reconstruct their own previously devised scenario.

* KEYHAN Editor in Chief Taken to Court

93LA0240F Tehran SALAM in Persian 2 Sep 93 p 3

[Text] On Thursday the deputy minister of culture and Islamic guidance said: The accusations made against Mehdi Nasiri, editor in chief of the newspaper KEYHAN, are press-related and will be studied in the presence of a jury in accordance with the law.

Dr. Purnejati added: Today in all the world's free nations, it is a natural and normal thing to investigate press accusations, and just as the press has the role of criticizing social issues, the people and the officials also have the right to voice their complaints.

According to some of the information obtained by IRNA, next week Mr. Nasiri, editor in chief of KEYHAN, will appear in court for an inquiry into the complaints against him.

Based on these reports, one of these plaintiffs is Mr. Al-e Ta'meh, and another is the prosecutor-general of Abadan.

In an interview with our correspondent, Dr. Purnejati added: Investigating accusations against people working in the press is one of the main duties of the deputy minister of Islamic guidance for press affairs. The trials will be held attended by an active jury and a public investigation will be made of the accusations.

IRNA's correspondent asked Dr. Purnejati about the possibility of trying Mr. Mehdi Nasiri in the Special Clerical Court. He answered: This is not unlikely, because Mr. Nasiri has seminary training and is considered a seminary student.

* Rafsanjani Cabinet Members' Biographies Given

93LA0237H London KEYHAN in Persian 26 Aug 93 p 2

[Text] The political and social biographies of the ministers who received votes of confidence from the Majles are worthy of attention in order to become more familiar with the existing government in Iran.

Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Ali Akbar Velayati, born in 1324 [21 March 1945-20 March 1946] in Tehran.

Advanced specialist study in pediatrics in America.

Political background: Member of the Islamic society of the Tehran Medical University in the years prior to the revolution.

Employment since the revolution: deputy ministry for treatment of the Ministry of Health and Welfare, member of the Central Council of the Islamic Republican Party, foreign minister since the year 1360 [21 March 1981-20 March 1982].

Ministry of Sciences and Higher Education

Seyyed Mohammad Reza Hashemi-Golpaygani, born in 1325 [21 March 1946-20 March 1947] in Najaf.
Doctoral degree in electricity and medical engineering from America.
Professor of electricity at the polytechnic university since the year 1347 [21 March 1968-20 March 1969].
Member of the Supreme Cultural Revolution Council.

Ministry of Defense

Mohammad Farzandeh, born in 1332 [21 March 1953-20 March 1954] in Abadan (his letter of introduction states: deprived of study because of struggle against the regime).
Employment since the revolution: Political and administrative deputy governor-general of Khuzestan, chief of the revolution guard staff, deputy chief of the Armed Forces Command Staff, second to the chief of staff, and deputy commander of the armed forces for logistics.

Ministry of Agriculture

'Esa Kalantari, born in 1331 [21 March 1952-20 March 1953].
Doctoral degree in agriculture from America.
No political record.

Ministry of Industries

Mohammad Reza Ne'matzadeh, born in 1324 [21 March 1945-20 March 1946] in Tabriz.
Master's degree in industrial management from America.
Political record: Member of the Islamic Students Society in America.
Employment since the revolution: Minister of Labor, Minister of Industries and cabinet deputy in the government of Mohammad 'Ali Raja'i.

Ministry of the Reconstruction Crusade

Gholamreza Foruzesh, born in 1334 [21 March 1955-20 March 1956], middle school diploma.
Political record: Religious activities before the revolution, former Majles deputy.

Ministry of Energy

Bizhan Namdar-Zanganeh, born in 1331 [21 March 1952-20 March 1953] in Kermanshah.
Master's degree in roads and construction.
Political record: Resistance activities in the university.

Ministry of Petroleum

Gholamreza Aqazadeh, born in 1327 [21 March 1948-20 March 1949] in Kho'ei.
B.A. in athletics and computers from Tehran.
Political record: Member of the University Islamic Society of University Students.
Previous employment: Internal manager of the newspaper JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI, member of the Political Council of the Islamic Republican Party, consulting minister for executive affairs, executive deputy prime minister and minister of petroleum since 1364 [21 March 1985-20 March 1986].

Ministry of Post, Telegraph and Telephone

Seyyed Mohammad Gharazi, born in 1327 [21 March 1948-20 March 1949] in Esfahan.
Master's degree in electromatics [as published] from Tehran.
Political prisoner from 1350 [21 March 1971-20 March 1972] to 1353 [21 March 1974-20 March 1975].
Previous employment: Influential role in the formation of the revolution guards, deputy governor-general of Kordestan, governor-general of Khuzestan, minister of petroleum from 1360 [21 March 1981-20 March 1982] to 1364 [21 March 1985-20 March 1986], and minister of post, telegraph and telephone since 1364.

Ministry of Health Care and Treatment

'Ali Reza Marandi, born in 1318 [21 March 1929-20 March 1930] in Esfahan.
Doctorate in pediatrics from America.
Political record: Resistance activities outside the countries and member of the Islamic Republican Party.
Previous employment: Minister of Health from 1363 [21 March 1984-20 March 1985] to 1368 [21 March 1989-20 March 1990].

Ministry of Education and Training

Mohammad 'Ali Najafi, born in 1330 [21 March 1951-20 March 1952] in Tehran.
Master's degree in athletics from America.
Political record: Member of the Islamic Society of Students in Tehran and America.
Previous employment: President of the University of Esfahan, minister of culture and higher education from 1360 [21 March 1981-20 March 1982 to 1363 [21 March 1984-20 March 1985], minister of education since 1367 [21 March 1988 -20 March 1989].

Minister of the Interior

'Ali Reza Basharati-Jahromi, born in 1323 [21 March 1944-20 March 1945] in Jahrom.
Bachelor's degree in judicial law.
Political record: Member of the Islamic Society in America.
Previous employment: Deputy to the First Majles, deputy foreign minister since 1363 [21 March 1984-20 March 1985].

Ministry of Justice

Mohammad Esma'il Shushtari, born in 1328 [21 March 1949-20 March 1950] in Shushtar.
Studies in theology in Qom and Najaf.
Political record: Religious struggles, imprisoned from 1351 [21 March 1972-20 March 1973] to 1356 [21 March 1977-20 March 1978].

Previous employment: Deputy from Quchan to the First Majles and the Second Majles, minister of justice since 1367 [21 March 1988-20 March 1989].

Ministry of Commerce

Yahya Al-e Eshaq, born in 1328 [21 March 1949-20 March 1950] in Tehran.
Bachelor's degree in commercial management.
Political record: Worked with the resistance against the regime.
Previous employment: Various positions in commercial affairs, deputy minister of industries.

Ministry of Housing

'Abbas Ahmad Akhundi, born in 1336 [21 March 1957-20 March 1958] in Najaf (formerly an Iraqi citizen).
Master's degree in roads and construction.
Political record: Religious activities.
Previous employment: Deputy minister of the interior for political and social affairs from 1361 [21 March 1982-20 March 1983] to 1364 [21 March 1985-20 March 1986], chief of the Housing Foundation since 1366 [21 March 1987-20 March 1988].

Ministry of Labor

Hoseyn Kemali, born in 1332 [21 March 1953-20 March 1954] in Borujerd.
Technical diploma in metalwork.
Political record: Religious activities.
Previous employment: Deputy to the Second Majles and minister of labor since 1368 [21 March 1989-20 March 1990].

Ministry of Roads and Transportation

Akbar Torkan, born in 1331 [21 March 1952-20 March 1953] in Tehran.
Mechanical engineering.
Political record: Religious activities.
Previous employment: Governor-general of Ilam and Hormozegan, minister of defense.

Ministry of Industries and Mines

Hoseyn Mahluji, born in 1326 [21 March 1947-20 March 1948] in Kashan.
Mechanical engineering.
Previous employment: Acting minister of mines and metals, deputy to the Third Majles and minister of industries and mines since 1368 [21 March 1989 -20 March 1990].

Ministry of Intelligence (Security)

'Ali Fallahian, born in 1328 [21 March 1949-20 March 1950] in Najafabad.
Education: Theology and principles of theology.
Previous employment: Religious magistrate at the Abadan Islamic Revolutionary Court, Bakhteran and Khorasan, special clerical prosecutor, deputy and acting minister of intelligence and minister of intelligence since 1368 [21 March 1989-20 March 1990].

Minister of Heavy Industries

Seyyed Mohammad Hadi Nezhad-Hoseynian, born in 1325 [21 March 1946-20 March 1947] in Tehran.
Master's degree in [?sazeh] from America.
Political record: Resistance activities.
Previous employment: In charge of the Development Division of the Foundation for the Oppressed, minister of roads and transportation, deputy minister of petroleum, minister of heavy industries since 1368 [21 March 1989-20 March 1990].

Ministry of Cooperatives

Gholamreza Shafe'i, born in 1330 [21 March 1951-20 March 1952] in Marand.
Mechanical engineering, member of the Islamic Student Society in Tehran and America.
Previous employment: Position on the Islamic revolutionary committee, minister of industries from 1363 [21 March 1984-20 March 1985] to 1368 [21 March 1989-20 March 1990], deputy director of the Plan and Budget Organization for production from 1368 [21 March 1989-20 March 1990] to 1370 [21 March 1991-20 March 1992], minister of cooperatives since 1370.

Ministry of Culture and Islamic Guidance

'Ali Larijani, born in Amol.
Master's degree in philosophy.
Previous employment: Acting minister of labor, deputy minister of post, telegraph and telephone, consultant to the commander and first deputy to the chief of the Joint Revolution Guards Staff, minister of culture and Islamic guidance since 1371 [21 March 1992-20 March 1993].

* Seventh Refinery Becomes Operational

93LA0237O London KEYHAN in Persian 16 Sep 93 p 4

[Text] Iran's government radio announced that a new refinery opened on Friday, 2 September (11 Shahrivar), in the city of Arak. The same source added that in the coming months this refinery, with the capacity to refine 150,000 barrels of crude oil per day, will make Iran self-sufficient with regard to refined oil products.

The Arak refinery, which was built with the cooperation of Japanese and Italian companies, will produce gasoil, household kerosene, gasoline, and liquid natural gas. Gholam Reza Aqazadeh-Khoi, Iran's minister of petroleum, estimated that the total value of this refinery's annual production will be $1 billion. Iran consumes 1 million barrels of refined oil products per day, and because of the severe damage done to its refineries during the war with Iraq, until now it has imported about 200,000 barrels of its needs.

The Arak refinery, which is Iran's seventh oil refinery, is the first oil complex that has been completely built since the 1979 revolution. Iran's eighth refinery, which is

being built in Bandar 'Abbas, is to go into operation in early 1995. Likewise, by the year 2000 a second refinery with the same capacity of the first is to be built in the city of Arak.

On the other hand the weekly MIDDLE EAST ECONOMIC SURVEY published in Nicosia reported on Monday, 6 September, that the production of crude oil by the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) has declined from 24.79 million barrels per day [BPD] in July to 24.335 million barrels in the month of August. In other words, it has decreased by 455,000 BPD. The aforementioned source says that OPEC's decreased production was due to the reduced production of oil in Iran and Saudi Arabia.

The MIDDLE EAST ECONOMIC SURVEY adds that in the month of August Iran reduced its production by 300,000 BPD and Saudi Arabia reduced its production by 200,000 BPD. On the other hand Kuwait and Venezuela each increased production by an average of 20,000 BPD.

* 70 Percent of Population Said Below Poverty Line

93LA0237N London KEYHAN in Persian 16 Sep 93 p 4

[Text] According to sources close to the Society of Combative Clergy [breakaway group] and especially Musavi Kho'iniha, the managing editor of SALAM, the controversial economic notes printed in this newspaper early in the month of Shahrivar [23 August-22 September] were not unrelated to the arrest of Engineer 'Abbas 'Abdi, its editor.

These notes, published in several issues of SALAM under the heading: "What Happened During the Last Four Years," were an answer to 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani's remarks at the 29 Mordad [20 August] Friday prayer. In this sermon, the president of the republic of Iran discussed the government's successes during the last four years on the occasion of obtaining votes of confidence for most of his proposed ministers, and painted a very rosy picture of the nation's economy.

In the introduction to its first notes, SALAM writes: "In his customary manner, the president of the republic has presented a very clear picture of the economic conditions in society in which he fascinated the despairing listener, even if this listener does not even have a sigh to trade for a groan. Even so, it must be said that making the people optimistic about the future is reasonable and useful, provided we do not become extremist, for otherwise, in the future we will lead ourselves and our people down the road to extremism."

For the information of KEYHAN's readers, we will print without comment some of Hashemi-Rafsanjani's remarks, along with SALAM's answers: Hashemi-Rafsanjani: When we compare the kinds of debates that we were having in our meetings four years ago with those on our agenda these days, we see a striking difference, and it shows from where to where we have gone in these last four years. As a domestic example, the first debates in those days was the issue of transportation and shipping. Fortunately, today you see that transportation and shipping in the country today is completely natural. In those days we were worried about power blackouts, but today we have no debate in the government at all about energy. Production in the month of Tir [22 June-22 July], when all the air conditioners are working, exceeded our consumption even at peak hours.

SALAM: The statement made today that there is no problem obtaining the goods needed by the people is not correct. We will begin with the best production sector, meaning electricity. If the president of the republic had obtained a report from the nation's southern ports, he certainly would not have said such a thing. We even have power blackouts right here in Tehran. Even so, we agree that the situation with electricity today does not resemble that of four years ago. But should it resemble that time? At that time many power plants were out of the network because of the war, and during this period they have been brought back on line at small expense (compared to the cost of building a power plant). Even the few other power plants, which have been started, were actually designed and their construction begun in the previous years during the war. Really, electrical power plants cannot be planned, built and put into service in two or three years.

Hashemi-Rafsanjani: A major worry that everyone had was the empty markets, the goods that were hidden in the warehouses and the spread of hoarding. The production and import of thousands of goods were consigned to chance and fate. Today, however, there is no longer talk of this. The procurement of the goods needed by the people has become natural and they are either produced or imported. Right now the first debate our government will have will be about what we should do with these goods which have remained in the factories in the hands of producers who need currency. That is, the first debate in the new cabinet will be about finding a cure for the abundance of goods which remain without customers in factory warehouses.

SALAM: The main reason for products remaining in the hands of the factories is not excessive supply, but too little income for individuals to be able to demand these goods. If we want to criticize the president of the republic's remarks in the language of economics, we must say that the nation's economy today is suffering from the "lack of effective demand." For this reason, our economy is faced with "stagflation." Knowledgeable people know that if a solution is not found for getting out of this situation, the nation will enter into an era of "economic crisis." Certainly those knowledgeable about economics on the cabinet know that economic crises in the West have always resulted from "excessive supply" and "lack of effective demand."

To get an understanding of the depth of the lack of demand in our society, we must study the distribution of

income and poverty in society, in order to see if the policy of economic adjustment has improved the distribution of income and poverty, or whether it has gotten worse. According to calculations done in 1370 [21 March 1991-20 March 1992] and 1369 [21 March 1990-20 March 1991], the monthly poverty line for families is about 180,000 to 260,000 rials[Rls]. Based on the 1370 statistics annual, we can approximate the size of the poor population during these years. If we figure the average annual cost for food and tobacco for an urban family with an annual income of less than Rls2,520,000 (210,000 monthly) 70 percent of the urban families are below the poverty line, which is a population of about 22 million. If we figure the average annual cost for food and tobacco for a rural family with an annual income of less than Rls2,160,000 (180,000 monthly), 70 percent of the rural families are below the poverty line, which is a population of about 16.5 million. In other words, 38.5 million out of a population of 55.8 million were below the poverty line in the year 1370, and their incomes were not enough to meet their consumer and necessary expenses. In such a situation, could the president of the republic expect goods not to remain in the warehouses?

Another point, which consequently must be mentioned, is the severely unbalanced distribution of income in Iran. Unfortunately, it must be said that a small number of the people in Iran (about 2 percent) has huge incomes and about half of Iran's gross national revenue goes to 20 percent of its families with high incomes, and the other half goes to the other 80 percent of families with average and low incomes! Because of this, while there is "lack of effective demand" from low- and middle-income families for essential goods, there is demand from the high-income families for luxury goods, and there is a flood of luxury goods coming in from abroad for consumption by this small part of society. It is no exaggeration to say that the pattern of income distribution in Iran is one of the world's worst, and it bears no resemblance to the procurement of social justice, which is one of the aspirations of the Islamic revolution and the primary responsibility of the Islamic government.

* Threat to Country's Agricultural Future Seen

93LA0240C Tehran SALAM in Persian 2 Sep 93 p 15

[Text] Kerman—SALAM correspondent. The shortage of researchers in agriculture threatens the nation's future.

Dr. 'Esa Kalantari, minister of agriculture, spoke at Kerman for the Seventh Academic Agricultural Seminar. In announcing the above, he said: Today our country faces problems in every area, especially in agriculture, and this is a threat to the nation's future.

He discussed the conditions of the economic adjustment. He said: By increasing production instead of development, our country must be able to put the conditions of economic adjustment behind it and achieve economic prosperity. He regarded the desired production of wheat as 4 tons per hectare. He said: A farmer that cannot reach this figure by the end of the Second Five-Year Plan is no farmer.

He discussed support for farmers. He said: There is a bill in hand on the basis of which farmers will be covered by social security.

He added: Guaranteed prices for agricultural crops is also a good step, which has been taken in the matter of support, and it gives the farmer direction for regional cultivation.

He noted that the government cannot sacrifice the consumer to support the farmer. Support for the farmer must be such that it does not damage the nation's economic security.

The chief of the Majles Agriculture Commission also spoke at this seminar. He said: Right now 30 percent of the workers in the agricultural sector are working for only 22 percent of the gross national revenues. This shows that agriculture has not found its place in employment.

He added: The process of the villages becoming smaller and cities becoming larger is continuing, so that the 69 percent rural population in the year 1335 [21 March 1956-20 March 1957] dropped to 45 percent in the year 1365 [21 March 1986-20 March 1987], and in this same period workers in the agricultural sector dropped from 56.7 percent to 30 percent.

He said: The planning in the agricultural sector has been insufficient and the Plan and Budget Organization has not paid the necessary attention to this important sector of the economy. On the one hand the lack of enough related industries has caused crops to be left on the ground, and the farmer has been damaged.

It is worth mentioning that this seminar was held with the cooperation of the National Agricultural Propagation Organization, the governor-general of Kerman and the Fajr College of Kerman's Martyr Bahonar University.

* Motives for Gilan Prosecutor's Suicide Reported

93LA0237G London KEYHAN in Persian 26 Aug 93 pp 1, 9

[Text] Following the publication in the foreign media of the report of the suicide of the Gilan Province Islamic revolutionary prosecutor-general in Rasht (KEYHAN, Thursday 19 August), the judicial power of the Islamic Republic was forced to issue a statement in this regard.

This statement said: Apparently to escape trial and its consequences, Mohsen Khodavardi, the Rasht Islamic revolutionary prosecutor-general, committed suicide. According to the explanation given by the Judicial Power Public Relations Office: Recently reports of financial and other transgressions by the Gilan Islamic revolutionary prosecutor-general reached the appropriate officials and afterwards a delegation from Tehran was sent

to investigate his crimes. In this regard the necessary investigation took place, the evidence was collected and given to the Expert Supreme Police Court Commission. While Mohsen Khodavardi was on vacatiuon, he was notified he was notified that he must go to Tehran to give explanations.

Thus, according to the statement from the judicial power, Mohsen Khodavardi had awaiting him a fate similar to that of Salman Ahmadi, the religious magistrate in Ahvaz, and he preferred suicide to execution.

At the same time, another report states that before Khodavardi killed himself he wrote a detailed letter in which he revealed the financial and other offenses of a number of the Islamic Republic's prominent people in the province of Gilan.

The opposition faction is insisting that this letter be published.

Mohsen Khodavardi, Islamic revolutionary prosecutor-general of Gilan, ended his life with a pistol at his father's home in Qazvin. This report was published last week in KEYHAN of London. We wrote: There are various rumors about the reasons for the suicide of the Gilan Islamic revolutionary prosecutor-general, but the guess that is closest to the truth is his participation in a series of financially corrupt dealings. He married six years ago, but had no children.

Why Censorship?

The newspaper JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI severely criticized the fact that the "officials in charge" censored news about the suicide of the Islamic revolutionary prosecutor-general and prevented its publication. It wrote: The news of the suicide of the Islamic revolutionary prosecutor-general in Rasht and the complaining by IRNA to the officials in charge because of the censorship shows once more the severe weakness of our news reporting system.

There is nothing new about what is being linked to the officials in charge. They are generally stingy, and they prevent the publication of reports like this when there is no need to do so. However, an important point that is forgotten in this is the failure of the news reporting system to carry out its responsibility.

News is not something that can be hoarded. News must be published, but the biased person, who censors reports such as that of the suicide of this prosecutor-general or the arrest of some official for the crime of embezzlement or corruption, really wants to conceal his weakness with regard to the timely presentation of these reports, and of course this weakness is not something that can be concealed. If they worked a little more quickly and more strongly, they could publish these kinds of reports without any delay and they could make additional information gradually available to the public as soon as it is available.

Yet the officials, for whatever reason, do not do this. If a news agency or a newspaper has news available, it must sit on its hands and keep expressing regrets. As soon as news becomes available, our news system must publish it, thereby persuading officials to take the necessary action to clarify. This will give the public a proper understanding of the events that are taking place and it will eliminate the invisible pressure on the relevant organizations, especially the judiciary. Everyone must deal with events with public opinion in mind, with complete candor and without side issues, and consequently the opportunities for abuses by enemy media will be taken away from them. Isn't it better that the news agencies act on their responsibilities instead of complaining?

* Involvement in Narcotics Trade Alleged

93LA0237E London KEYHAN in Persian 19 Aug 93 p 1

[Text] Mohsen Khodavardi, the Islamic revolution's prosecutor-general for the province of Gilan, ended his life last Thursday with a pistol at his father's home in Qazvin. There are various rumors in the northern part of the country about the reasons for the suicide of the Gilan Islamic revolutionary prosecutor-general, but the guess that is closest to the truth is that it was his participation in a series of financially corrupt dealings connected with narcotics. Khodavardi, who in the past served as the Islamic revolutionary prosecutor-general in the province of Kermanshah, married six years ago, but he had no children and some of those close to him say that the Gilan Revolution Prosecutor's Office was always unhappy about this. Last week Mohsen Khodavardi went to Qazvin to see his father, but at 1400 the same day he killed himself with a bullet to the heart.

The Gilan Province Islamic revolutionary prosecutor-general is the Islamic Republic's first high-ranking official to kill himself, and in view of the fact that Islam forbids suicide, news of this event was received with great surprise in Iran.

Some residents of Rasht say it is not unlikely that Khodavardi was involved with corruption, and that after his illicit relations were revealed he killed himself. The Islamic Republic has not yet published any information about the suicide of the Gilan Province Islamic revolutionary prosecutor-general. Khodavardi had studied the field of management.

News of the suicide of the Gilan Province Islamic revolutionary prosecutor-general was reported for the first time in Iran and elsewhere in the world on Sunday by the Persian Service of the international radio BBC.

Nepal & Bhutan

Nepal, Bhutan Reach Agreement on Refugee Issue

BK0710151693 Hong Kong AFP in English 1503 GMT 7 Oct 93

[Text] Kathmandu, Oct 7 (AFP)—Representatives from Nepal and Bhutan agreed Thursday [7 October] to categorise more than 100,000 Bhutanese refugees sheltered in far southeastern Nepal to speed their repatriation, officials said.

After five rounds of talks, officials on the Joint Ministerial Committee between Nepal and Bhutan reached the agreement.

Nepalese Home Minister Sher Bahadur Deupa led his country's delegation to the meeting while his Bhutanese counterpart Lyonpo Dago Tsering headed his three-member team.

The joint communique said categorisation would be made as to whether bonafide Bhutanese had been evicted forcefully from Bhutan, or whether they had emigrated or had committed criminal acts.

The categorisation would also identify non-Bhutanese emigrating to Nepal.

Of the 100,000 Bhutanese, some 85,000 have been sheltered in far southeastern Jhapa and Sunsari districts of Nepal in eight refugees camps run by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and other non-governmental organisations.

The Bhutanese of Nepalese descent migrated to Nepal to escape their government's alleged intimidation after it forced harsh cultural reforms on them.

Pakistan

Prominent Politicians Hail 'Free, Fair' Elections

BK0810030293 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 0200 GMT 8 Oct 93

[Text] Nawabzada Nasrullah Khan, the chief of the National Democratic Alliance, has said that by holding free and fair elections, the caretaker government has proved that it is really an impartial government. In an interview with APP, he said these elections will be remembered as exemplary in the country. He stressed the need for the establishment of a system that should be free from the confrontation between the federation and the provinces.

Maulana Fazlur Rahman, the secretary general of the Jamiat-i-Ulema-i-Islam-Fazlur Rahman group, has expressed satisfaction over the arrangements made by the chief election commissioner, the military, and the caretaker government for peaceful elections in the country. Talking to APP in Dera Ismail Khan yesterday, he expressed the hope that his party will show better results in the upcoming elections.

Maulana Samiul Haq, the president of the Muttaheda Deeni Mahaz [United Religious Front], has also congratulated the chief election commissioner and the armed forces for holding the most peaceful elections in the democratic history of the country and expressed the hope that all religious parties will forget their petty differences and work tirelessly for the glory of Islam in Pakistan.

Bhutto: PPP To Form Government at Federal Level

BK0810024293 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 0200 GMT 8 Oct 93

[Text] Benazir Bhutto, the cochairperson of the Pakistan People's Party [PPP] has said her party has won the largest number of seats in the 6 October National Assembly elections, and it will form the government at the federal level. Talking to reporters on her arrival in Lahore from Larkana last night, she said her party has won the majority, and if a further majority is needed, it can be acquired from the allied parties. She said that the attention of the PPP leadership is currently focused on the provincial assembly elections due to be held on Saturday [9 October].

Benazir Bhutto has called a meeting of the newly elected National Assembly members belonging to her party in Lahore on Sunday. She disclosed this while talking to reporters in Larkana yesterday. She also advised the National Assembly members of her party to remain in their respective constituencies until the provincial assembly elections.

Outlines Program for 'Reconstruction'

BK0710162993 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 1500 GMT 7 Oct 93

[Text] Ms. Benazir Bhutto, chairperson of the Pakistan People's Party [PPP] and former prime minister, said that she is thankful to the nation for the confidence it expressed in her leadership and the PPP. Talking to newsmen at her residence in Naudero today, she also congratulated her ally parties on their success. Answering a question about the possibility of forming a coalition government, she said that it is premature to say anything about it at this stage.

Talking to a Radio Pakistan correspondent today, Ms. Benazir Bhutto said the election results indicate that the people of Pakistan have given a clear mandate to the PPP. In this context, she said that the role played by the caretaker government and the Army for holding fair elections in the country in a peaceful atmosphere is praiseworthy. She said that her party will make every effort to deal with the country's economic problems. She said:

[Begin Bhutto recording] The people of Pakistan have given a very big responsibility to the PPP, and we will make every effort, God willing, to fully carry out this responsibility. I feel that every effort was made by the prime minister and the Armed Forces to ensure fair elections in a peaceful manner. Thank God they were held in both a fair and peaceful manner. Well, there were some shortcomings on the part of the Election Commission in relation to the electoral list; but this is a minor matter. The main thing is that fair elections were held after 16 years. The people have given their verdict, and that is in favor of the PPP. Now we must prepare a program for the reconstruction of Pakistan. The first thing we intend to do is review the economy and simultaneously work to fulfill the long-standing dream of Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto to make Pakistan an energy power [tawanai taqat, as heard]. We want to make Pakistan an energy power. Because, without electricity, industries cannot run and tube wells cannot be operated. We would also like to introduce agricultural (?reforms). [Passage indistinct] Now, a new struggle [words indistinct] for Pakistan's (?law) and we will succeed as a result of the prayers of the people of Pakistan, because prayers enable people to succeed. Because if we look into [problems] of Pakistan, there are two biggest difficulties—inflation and unemployment. I am not saying that unemployment or inflation will be abolished within a day. But I am saying that it will be reduced every year and, God willing, inflation and unemployment will be brought under control after three or four years. We will need the assistance of the whole nation in this task and I feel that there are [words indistinct]. We will also strive to launch a war against [words indistinct]. [end recording]